



In Thanksgiving

Dear Louisville Seminary Community,

There is a need in the human spirit for moments of rest, respite, and reflection. We need this season of observance to replenish our individual sense of participation in the life of the whole. We need this sequence of continuity, an abiding sense of the flow of life itself, in the here and now. We need the renewal of our faith. Our souls do hunger and thirst.



We are well aware how the life and well-being of many are threatened by forms of pandemic and unrest. We are prompted in mind, body, and spirit to act. To do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly. We are too often conflicted even with the truth in front of us. Personally, and collectively, we know that we can and must do better. Our very humanity is at stake.

Fatigue has become our familiar and constant companion. Exhaustion is not so very far removed. Demonstrating sheer determination, we have worked endlessly through the drama of these days. The events taking place around us are enervating. Deep cleavages have been laid bare in our country and our world. The inequities are not at all new. Our soul work begins again.

We are barely recognizable to ourselves. Our viral circumstance isolates and separates us in tremulous ways. We are confounded by cascading racial and social injustices. We are mystified by manifold catastrophes. Upon hindsight, we have been gifted with pandemic perspective. The struggle is not ours alone. Together we increase. Our witness grows from strength to strength.

As we enter into the rhythm of this season – Transgender Day of Remembrance, National Day of Mourning, Thanksgiving, World AIDS Day, Advent, Hanukkah, Winter Solstice, Kwanzaa, and so much more – we affirm and recognize this shared life of which all humankind and creation is a part. For many of the Christian faithful, Christmas is that tiding of great joy.

We hold fast to the universality and closeness of love in this season. We join in solidarity with all peoples everywhere in their fierce struggle to be beautifully human. We give thanks for one another in the midst of the traffic of these most uncommon days. We commemorate the commonplace. We learn the perils and promise of life. We love ourselves deeply.

Louisville Seminary. Students, faculty, staff, administrators, alums, trustees, family, and friends. I give thanks for our beloved community. The dedication to head, hands, and heart. The respect of persons. The care of souls. The dignity of difference. The struggle for justice. The practice of presence. The divine restlessness. The invitation to whosoever.

God has not left us without a witness. In your humanity and mine is a reflection of the moral arc of the universe. Emmanuel!

In Thanksgiving,
Alton B. Pollard, III
President
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