



Dear friends in Christ,

I am writing to you with important and unexpected news about our church building. Last night an engineering assessment of the nave at St. George's identified that two of the roof trusses are severely compromised. Based on this professional advice, we have been told that the nave must be closed immediately for safety reasons until repairs are completed.

I want to be very clear: this decision has been made out of care for you. Your safety is not negotiable. As much as we love the beauty of our nave, we will not gather in a space that puts anyone at risk.

I know this news will come as a shock. For many of us, the nave of St. George's is not just a space in the church where we gather for worship. It is a place filled with memory and meaning. It is where we have prayed, sung, grieved, celebrated, and marked the most important moments of our lives. To be told that we cannot gather there, even for a short time, is deeply unsettling and upsetting. And I believe it is okay to feel that.

At the same time, we are reminded of something essential to our faith. The Church is not the building. The Church is the people of God, gathered in Christ. And that means that wherever we gather, whether it's in the chapel, or in the parish hall, Christ is present with us, just as surely as He has always been.

Your wardens and I met this morning with a principal engineer from Tacoma Engineers, a firm with expertise in heritage buildings, to assess the situation and begin determining the path forward. The immediate next step is the installation of eight shoring columns. Once that work is complete, a secondary assessment can be carried out safely. This is a staged process, carried out step by step. While there is still more to learn, please know that we are moving forward with urgency, diligence, and the best professional guidance available to us.

In the meantime, our worship will continue. Beginning this Sunday, we will be in the chapel at 8:30 am, and in Mitchell Hall at 10:30 am, and we will continue to pray, to hear the Word, and to celebrate the Eucharist together.

This is not the situation any of us would have chosen. But it is the one before us. And I believe that the strength of St. George's has never been in its timber or stone, but in its people, and in your faith, your love, and your commitment to one another.

So we will walk this road together. We will adapt. We will care for one another. And we will trust that God is at work among us, even here, even now.

Please keep the wardens, our parish council, and all those involved in your prayers in the days ahead. And please continue to join us for worship as you are able. It is in our gathering that we become the Church, and it is together that we share in the life of Christ.

Yours in Christ,

The Rev. Victor Kischak,
Pastor, Priest, & Rector

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