

November 15, 2016

Dear Grace Church Family and Friends,

Since church on Sunday, one of my favorites quotes has been running through my head. It is from Archbishop Oscar Romero, who spent his life fighting against poverty and social injustice, before being martyred in San Salvador. I have probably shared this before but offer it to you again today:

*It helps, now and then, to step back and take the long view.  
The Kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision.  
We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of  
the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.  
Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying  
that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.*

*No statement says all that should be said.  
No prayer fully expresses our faith.  
No confession brings perfection.  
No pastoral visit brings wholeness.  
No program accomplishes the church's mission.  
No set of goals and objectives includes everything.*

*This is what we are about.  
We plant seeds that will one day grow.  
We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.  
We lay foundations that will need further development.  
We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capability.  
We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation  
that enables us to do something, and to do it very well.*

*It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way,  
an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.  
We may never see the end results, but that is the difference  
between the master builder and the worker.  
We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.  
We are prophets of a future not our own.*

At Grace Church, we will work to be those prophets of a future not our own, by living out our baptismal promises to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves, and striving for justice and peace among all people, as we respect the dignity of every human being.

See you in church,  
Andrew