

October 2, 2018

Dear Grace Church Family and Friends,

Last week, I was in Arizona, and while I was there, I had an opportunity to visit the border between the United States and Mexico. I saw “the wall,” learned about life along the border, and even spoke with a Border Patrol agent.

It was a powerful and moving experience, particularly when my group celebrated communion just as the sun was going down. My heart went out to those on the other side of the wall, yearning to enter this country in search of hope, peace, and a better life for themselves and their family.

As our worship came to a close, our guide, who is also a deacon in the church, offered a closing prayer, a prayer known as the Immigrants’ Apostles Creed:

I believe in Almighty God, who guided the people in exile and in exodus, the God of Joseph in Egypt and Daniel in Babylon, the God of foreigners and immigrants.

I believe in Jesus Christ, a displaced Galilean, who was born away from his people and his home, who fled his country with his parents when his life was in danger. When he returned to his own country he suffered under the oppression of Pontius Pilate, the servant of a foreign power. Jesus was persecuted, beaten, tortured, and unjustly condemned to death. But on the third day Jesus rose from the dead, not as a scorned foreigner but to offer us citizenship in God’s kingdom.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the eternal immigrant from God’s kingdom among us, who speaks all languages, lives in all countries, and reunites all races. I believe that the Church is the secure home for foreigners and for all believers. I believe that the communion of saints begins when we embrace all God’s people in all their diversity. I believe in forgiveness, which makes us all equal before God, and in reconciliation, which heals our brokenness.

I believe that in the resurrection God will unite us as one people in which all are distinct and all are alike at the same time. I believe in life eternal, in which no one will be foreigner but all will be citizens of the kingdom where God reigns forever and ever. Amen.

[INSERT PICTURE HERE]

See you in church,
Andrew