

# The Divine Comedy:

## *Notes from Pastor Darryl*

January 2020

Happy New Year! I pray that for every one of you that this upcoming year (i.e. our lap around the sun) is full of love and laughter, blessing and beauty, good health and good cheer.

The start of the new year is a time to reflect on where we have been, who we have been, as well as to be mindful of where we are headed. It is a time to bring people together and hold them in our hearts. We take stock of our lives and begin to make plans for tomorrow. It is a great time to gain some focus and prioritize what is important over what is frivolous. Life is a journey taken step by step, and as the spiritual says, “we don’t want to run this race in vain.”

So much of our faith is grounded in this idea of “journey” and “progress” and moving towards love and connection. These ideas of evolving and growing into who God calls us to be is why so many of Jesus’ parables about the Reign of God has nature or agriculture at the heart of his stories. We are all mustard seeds! And like most things that grow, we will need to be patient, utilize trial and error, learn from our past while leaning into the hope for the future. This is how we come to bloom and blossom – it is how we come to be with God, and to come to be who God calls us to be.

As we begin our next lap around the sun, there are a few things that are evolving around KCC that I want you to be aware of:

- The CHIMES Newsletter will get a different format and publishing time starting in February. The CHIMES is such an important part of our church’s legacy as well as an important tool for continued ministry and mission. But it needs some tweaking so as not to be so time-consuming for staff and to utilize it better. It has evolved over the years from a weekly publication to a monthly online newsletter.

The current version will be a blend of both. Please take a moment to read the letter about this change. The new format and weekly distribution will be for a trial period until the June Annual Meeting.

- We are strengthening our ties to our sister church, Maryhill Parish in Glasgow, Scotland, in 2020. Through a wonderful and invitational “Greening and Living Simply” outreach collaboration, and the pulpit swap in the summer, we hope to build on our kinship with MHP. We choose to focus on creation care and simplifying our lives because these two challenges are at the heart of our faith and need more attention as we grow in our faith. A lot more details will be coming soon and rather quickly at the January 12, 2020 Annual Budget Meeting.

I like to think of New Years as opportunities to live into God’s poetic and prophetic promise: “Behold, for I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth. Do you not perceive it?” (Isaiah 43:19). God is constantly and consistently beckoning us forward to behold the new thing that God is doing within our midst. And in partnership with the Holy Spirit, we are able to fully live into that new thing, that new reality, that God so boldly proclaims.

So Happy New Year Kensington Community Church! It’s 2020! The roaring 20’s are back, and we have a loving God that is springing forth a bold new thing for me, for you, for us, for the world.

Peace. Love. Understanding.

*Pastor Darryl*