

On the mind of the Rev. Adrian Dannhauser...

This past Tuesday, I travelled to Albany to lobby for the Sex Trade Survivors Justice and Equality Act (STSJA) — state legislation aimed at shrinking the market for prostitution by stopping the arrest of those exploited in the sex trade (while continuing to hold those who exploit them criminally accountable).

I was with the New Yorkers for the Equality Model, a coalition of trafficking survivors, human rights advocates, trauma-informed specialists, and direct service providers. After attending a press conference, we split up into teams and visited the offices of several State Senators and Assembly Members.

My team was a group of experts, all working for organizations that address human trafficking. I was the lone lay person, if you will. I didn't know a fraction of what my team members did about the bill or the larger issue. But a few times I found myself doing a better job than they did connecting with legislative staff because I spoke in plainer terms and kept my arguments very simple.

It reminded of the times my husband has told me to keep my sermons simple and be careful of cramming in too much theology or biblical knowledge. Information overload can cause your audience's eyes to glaze over, and I've made that mistake in the pulpit more than once!

Point being, you don't have to be an expert to speak up. Jesus is our Advocate, compelling us to advocate for others. He calls us to use our voices for the disadvantaged and marginalized, especially those silenced by oppression and fear. Even small forms of advocacy (like signing a statement in support of the STSJA at bit.ly/4cNwSb4) can have an impact.

You also don't have to be an expert to evangelize. Sometimes Christians are reticent to speak openly about their faith because they think they don't know enough about the Bible or aren't articulate enough to explain the Good News. However, what we offer doesn't have to be eloquent or perfectly constructed, just sincere. Sharing from the heart is a form of sharing God's grace.

The truth is we manage our voices just as we manage our money. So make it count — in prayer, in government, in the marketplace, in our various spheres of influence, and in conversation with someone who might need an encouraging word.

When we have the courage to speak up for those in need or speak a Gospel truth, we speak up for Jesus, the One who speaks for us before the throne of the Almighty.

TODAY AFTER CHURCH

Join us in the Parish House for Coffee Hour after the 11:00 a.m. service. The Rev. Rob Pfeiffer from our sister parish in London, St. Vedast-Alias-Foster, will join us to speak about current activities at St. Vedast and in the Diocese of London.

Incarnation Cross Necklaces are on sale in the Parish House. Mother's Day is next Sunday, and our cross necklaces make a great gift! The pendant is inspired by the large brass crosses, designed by Tiffany and Company, that adorn the wooden doors in the southeast corner of the sanctuary. Both the pendant and the 18-inch chain are 14-karat gold plate on sterling silver. Pendants are \$150; chains are \$50. Speak to the Rev. Adrian Dannhauser to purchase a necklace.

BIBLE STUDY

Sunday, May 10, 10:00 to 10:40 a.m. Seminarian Romy John Abraham offers the second in a three-part series on Paul's letter to the Ephesians. This Pauline epistle sets out a theological vision of God's plan to unite all creation in Christ and exhorts the church to embody that unity through reconciliation across ethnic boundaries and holy conduct in everyday relationships. Please join us in learning about Paul's practical wisdom for our lives today.

DALTON CHORALE SPRING CONCERT

Tuesday, May 12, 7:30 p.m. The Dalton Chorale performs Duruflé's Requiem, plus works by Pärt and Lauridsen. The Dalton Chorale is a mixed choir of some fifty voices, founded in New York in 1991 to give members the opportunity to sing significant sacred and secular music. Pieces are by well-known and less well-known composers, from the 17th century to the present day. Tickets are \$35 at the door or \$30 in advance. Go to daltonchorale.org to purchase yours and learn more.

AN EVENING FOR THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN EUROPE

Wednesday, May 13, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Incarnation is hosting the Board of Foreign Parishes for a special gathering dedicated to the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe. The Rt. Rev. Mark Edington, Bishop in charge of the Convocation, will discuss the history and development of the Episcopal Church in Europe, and will speak to the dramatic shifts in its ministry with refugees in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. We'll also screen a short section of an award-winning documentary sharing the story of the Convocation's refugee grant program, undertaken in partnership with Episcopal Relief and Development. Please join us!

TRINITY SUNDAY VOLUNTEER CHOIR

Sunday, May 31, 11:00 a.m. Help lead the congregation in song on Trinity Sunday, May 31! A volunteer pick-up will join our professional singers to make a joyful noise unto the Lord. There will be one evening rehearsal on Tuesday, May 26, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The call time on Trinity Sunday is 9:15 a.m. If you'd like to participate, email Music Director Thomas Reefer at treefer@churchoftheincarnation.org. Be sure to let him know the part you sing and your past choral experience.

SUMMER BOOK READ

Sundays, June 7 – 28, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. The Rev. Adrian Dannhauser will lead a four-part book study on *How We Learn to Be Brave: Decisive Moments in Life and Faith* by the Rt. Rev. Mariann Budde, Bishop of Washington. Bishop Budde drew nationwide attention after addressing President Trump in her sermon during the inaugural prayer service at the National Cathedral in DC last year.

We are happy to offer a separate Zoom version of this book study provided there is sufficient interest. Email Adrian at adannhauser@churchoftheincarnation.org if you would like to participate, and she will work to find a day and time that works for most.

SPRING STEWARDSHIP – GIVING FOR GOD'S HOLY PURPOSES

Jesus called disciples to follow him, to learn from him, and to work alongside him for God's holy purposes. Together they bore witness to God's reign of justice, mercy and peace, making manifest in tangible ways God's light and love. Do you have a practice of regular giving for the spread of God's kingdom?

To date, **62** households have pledged to give a total of **\$250,922** in 2026. We invite you to join them and help us reach our goal of \$275,000. Fill out a Commitment Card at the back of the church or pledge online by scanning the QR code below.



Let's deepen our journey together with Jesus as we move through Eastertide. Thank you for your commitment to the life we share in Christ.