

February 25, 2024

**Second Sunday in Lent**

Psalm 22:23-31

Always Close

*Seminary Sunday*

*Church Vocations Sunday*

Psalm 22:30-31

*Posterity will serve him;*

*future generations will be told about the Lord,  
and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
saying that he has done it.*

The psalmist is confident that those to come will be taught about the ways of God, and proclaims boldly that even generations yet to be born will know to praise the Divine One.

How confident are you and your congregation that “future generations will be told” about God? If your confidence is wavering, maybe now is the time to look around, to notice those who have gifts for leadership and ministry, and to lift them up. Maybe it’s time for your church to be a place that nurtures ministers.

Congregations who successfully call out gifts of ministry from among their members do so intentionally and prayerfully. Wondering how your congregation can nurture the call to ministry in young people? Here are some ideas to try.

1. Remember that the church needs a variety of kinds of leadership in the future. Maybe that tech genius who always helped you fix the projector in your confirmation class is called to ministry. Maybe the young person who is always ready to argue with authority figures or scripture is ready for ministry. Maybe the artist, whose bulletin doodles often echo the theme of worship, is ready for ministry.
2. Too often we see gifts in others and fail to recognize or celebrate them. Calling out what we see in others can help them see something new in themselves. If you think someone has a gift for ministry, say so!
3. Create an atmosphere where people can try and mess up and try again. Ministry has a steep learning curve, and giving lay people the chance to preach, to make pastoral calls and to stretch their skills in other ways can be the best preparation of all for those who are called to ministry.

Support those who are called to ministry spiritually and practically. Pray for and with them. And find ways to support those who are called to ministry materially as well, whether it’s through gifts of money, books or just the occasional cup of coffee and listening ear.