

## **“Living the Way of Love: Do Justice, Love Kindness, Walk Humbly with God”**

Homily by Rev. Patricia Farris



What a wonderful day in Eastertide this is as we continue our journey from Easter into Easter, Living the Way of Love. This morning we are all enlivened, receiving new life through the lives of our eight confirmands. They’ve studied together, prayed, asked tough questions, and grown in faith. As you just heard Mike describe for us: in Confirmation “they claim their relationship with Christ and with the members of the church. They are here for service to Jesus Christ, to utilize the gifts that the Holy Spirit has bestowed upon each of them.”

As they join in membership today, we remind ourselves that this is not membership in an exclusive club, but rather as part of a body of believers who walk this way of love together, drawing strength from one another, each of us striving, in the midst of this precious, faithful, courageous, hope-filled community, to live as exemplars of what it looks like when we’re held accountable for a well-lived life.

A well-lived life. A faithful life. A life of striving to love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength, and our neighbor as ourself.

With our Confirmands, we hear today the beautiful and compelling words of the eighth-century prophet Micah that Mike just read for us, this focal summary of faith, hope, and challenge: “God has told us what is good; and what does the Lord require of us but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God?”

Do justice. Love kindness. Walk humbly with God. This is our life-long spiritual practice, if you will. How do we do it? Our spiritual muscles get stronger with practice as we develop daily habits that allow all life to flourish. Doing or saying something for justice each day. Being kind to ourselves, to those closest to us whom we love and to those who are hard to love. Walking humbly, gently on the earth, not putting ourselves and our wants and needs first, but seeking our proper place within the community of all our brothers and sisters and with creation itself. Becoming a channel of God’s peace. Practicing each day. Calling ourselves back when we mess up or miss an opportunity. Learning, growing, praying. Day by day. Do justice. Love kindness. Walk humbly with our God.

Thank you, confirmands, for sharing your gift of faith with all of us. For showing your hope and your commitment to us and to the world. Let us walk together into God’s future and may God cause us all this day to renew our commitments to God in Christ.