

Dear friends,

Good morning to you on this beautiful fall day. I know most of us are grateful that the elections are over, and some are celebrating while others grieve. I don't ever assume that we all think, pray, or vote alike. But for many years we have lived the UCC core practices of *autonomy* and *covenant*, that is, to **Be the Church** together, to love and serve God in all our diversity. Our work together is the same today, after the election as it was before. The banners around our campus remind us to "**Be the Church**" To protect the environment, care for the poor, forgive often, reject racism, fight for the powerless, share earthly and spiritual resources, embrace diversity, love God, and enjoy this life!

Our work together remains the same as it was before November 7. The prophet Micah calls to us today, "God has already made abundantly clear what "good" is, and what God needs from you: simply do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God." (Mic 6: 8b) Jesus, when asked about the "greatest" commandment replied: "You must love God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind." and "You must love your neighbor as yourself." (Mt 22: 37-39) When asked: "When did we see you hungry or thirsty, or homeless or naked, or ill or in prison, and not take care of you? Jesus answered, "The truth is, as often as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me." (Mt 25: 44-45)

Rev. Mary Luti writes in her UCC daily Devotion on November 9:

"In ways that really count, this post-election day, momentous as it is, is no different from any other. Like every day, it's a gift from God, a new and pregnant mercy. Like every day, it's a precious clearing in which to meet again the Steadiness that undergirds each change and chance, and in that meeting to believe again that no matter what befalls us or our fragile democracy, God will not fail to hold us night and morning. God will not fail to will and work the good of all creation. God will not fail to be God."

God is not done yet. Nor are we. We have a unique opportunity to support ministry in the world (yes, *world*, not just nation) that serves as the hands and feet, body and breath of Jesus, in a place where all God's people gather in peace, love, justice, compassion, and mercy. Through our very gifts of presence, time and talent, goodness grows in and around us. Our financial support means people who would not otherwise be served, are. It means stranger does not mean *enemy*. It means *friend* and relative applies to all of us. It means we gather around one table together trusting that together we are better, stronger, and wiser.

Come to church. We need each other to survive. We need each other to thrive. United as the body of Christ incarnated in and through Rincon Congregational UCC, we create a better world together.

Please carefully and prayerfully consider how you will support Rincon and the United Church of Christ, helping to ensure Good News for all God's people.

Peace and Joy!

Pastor Delle