

A Reflection from The Rev. Ben Robertson // June 12, 2024

Chaos & Sanctuary

Sitting down to write this week's reflection, my space is not very peaceful. The roof above the offices is being replaced, and while I am grateful we have the resources to maintain our physical plant, the constant cacophony of crashes and bangs borders on the comedic.

Summer can be a season of distraction and disruption. Summer can be a time of respite, of adventure or sabbath, but with changes in routines and schedules, summer can also be even more chaotic than our usual level of zany. Summer can be the most challenging season for finding rest or peace. But in this season, as in all seasons, we still seek peace; we still seek sanctuary.

Sanctuary is a churchy word. The word comes from the Latin word *sanctus*, which means holy. Every Sunday during the Eucharistic Prayer, we say or sing "holy, holy, holy," echoing Revelation 4:8, "And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and inside. Day and night without ceasing they sing, 'Holy, holy, holy, the Lord God the Almighty, who was and is and is to come.'" Some use the word sanctuary to describe our entire worship space, although technically, the sanctuary is only part of it, namely the area around the altar inside the altar rail. In fact, in some traditions (not ours), only elders or clergy can enter the sanctuary. Some parishes paint their doors red to signify sanctuary; for inside, one should find refuge and welcome.

While you may be traveling, or at the river or the beach, or just doing what you always do, during these summer months, I pray you will join us for some sanctuary at All Saints. And not only on Sundays at 8 or 10:30, but for special events like the Jazz Happy Hour, the Car Show, or Lunch Packing. Here, amid the chaos of life, we find sanctuary in the beauty of worship, the work of discipleship, and the comfort of community. I pray All Saints is a sanctuary for you and your family, now and always.