

Wednesday, October 18, 2023 // Written by The Rev. Ben Robertson

The last couple of weeks have been rough. From the horrific events in the Middle East to the state of our politics and many other injustices that don't make the headlines, our world is hurting. And here at All Saints, we are mourning the loss of several members. I am so thankful for our Congregational Care committee, the Hospitality Guild, the staff, and many others who care for us in these times.

And in the face of these difficulties, we are tempted to have answers. I am reminded of the trend amongst sports commentators to quickly offer a "hot take" on a player's performance or a team's loss or whatever. When someone offers a "hot take," their opinion may be entertaining or fantastic, but it may not be wise, thorough, or insightful. While innocuous in the sports world, I fear this trend has crept into other parts of our lives, so much so that whatever we encounter, we expect immediate solutions.

I wonder if, when faced with an enormous or complex issue, problem, or tragedy, the wisest course of action is to say, "I don't know." And instead of searching for a quick fix, we pray about it, we research and discuss the matter with friends and colleagues (and ask for God's blessing on those endeavors), and then perhaps, with God's help, a nuanced and thoughtful response emerges. The answer may not be written in the sky, but we hope (and pray) that God's will is made known through deliberate consideration.

I pray that the wise will develop solutions for those places that are broken, I pray our leaders will implement such solutions with humility and care, and I pray that all of us hold each other in prayer and remind one another that each and every one of us is a beloved and gifted creation of God.