

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,

I am writing to you from the historic Christ Church Cathedral in Cincinnati on the eve of the Feast of the Annunciation, to introduce myself to you, as your new Rector. Given the opportunity to prayerfully interact with the Vestry and Search Committee of St. Anne's and visit beautiful Annapolis, I have spent the past few months in prayer discerning our potential future together. It is with great joy and humility that I have accepted this call to lead the community of St. Anne's.

I believe in the possibility of ministry rooted in the centrality of scripture, prayer, Episcopal liturgy, and evangelism. This ministry is rooted in grace.

Our prayer book has defined grace to be "unmerited favor." In other words, grace is about empathetically journeying through communicating and living into the hope of God in building a kingdom of love, peace, and justice. This involves building on congregational life centered on the Eucharist, commitment to Christian formation, music, and prayer inter-generationally while at the same time learning to minister to each other through prayerful support in small groups.

Joelle, Abigail, and Johan join me in prayerful anticipation of getting to know you and discerning how God has called us to particularly be together in carrying out God's mission in Annapolis and throughout the world.

May our ministry together be an opportunity for grace-filled interaction and dreaming of spreading the good news of Jesus our Lord and master.

In Christ's Service,

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(The Rev. Manoj Mathew Zacharia, Ph.D.)