



The Episcopal Diocese of Texas
Office of the Bishop

The Episcopalians living in North Central Texas
c/o The Rt. Rev. Scott Mayer, and
The Rev. Karen Calafat, President of the standing committee
PO Box 8695
Fort Worth TX 76124

February 25, 2021

My dear Episcopal friends,

It was with sadness that your fellow Episcopalians in the Diocese of Texas received the news that the Supreme Court would not hear your case.

“What shall I say to you?” I have questioned in my prayer time.

What comes to mind is Psalm 42:

My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me all day long, "Where is your God" These things I remember as I pour out my soul: how I used to go to the house of God under the protection of the Mighty One with shouts of joy and praise among the festive throng. Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

The psalms of lamentation are meant to be sung by people who are in deep sadness and pain so that they may remember who God is and how God cares.

Admiral James “Jim” Stockdale was a prisoner of war for more than 7 years during the Vietnam War. He said, “I never lost faith in the end of the story,” he said. “I never doubted not only that I would get out, but also that I would prevail in the end and turn the experience into the defining event of my life, which, in retrospect, I would not trade.” We recognize the brutal truth of our time and our moment, and have faith in the story that still lies ahead of us. As described by Stockdale, we may very well see a parallel with the work of the psalmists who wrote the lamentation psalms.

We cannot disregard the brutal honesty of your situation. Together we have to face it faithfully, truthfully, with eyes wide open; and we have to proclaim the faith that is in us.

You are amazing and miraculous people. Not because you do good ministry or great work serving the community. You are miraculous people who will continue your narrative because as I look at you, I see the hope, power, mercy, and love that comes from God through you into the world.

This is tough, and there is probably tough still ahead, that is the brutal truth. You will make it and envision your new future because God is not done with you. God is working God's purposes out through you. When you feel alone you must realize that you have friends all around you that believe in God's action and narrative that awaits the continuation of God's story.

So, count on us to support you in the weeks, months, and years to come. As before, "put your hope in God," and lean towards your future. God has a mission, and that mission continues to have a church in North Central Texas, and that church is The Episcopal Church.

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Andrew Doyle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

C. Andrew Doyle, D.D.
IX Bishop of Texas

CAD/smm