

Good morning,

Well here we all are on this Fourth of July day, I hope that you all will have some time to celebrate today. To celebrate the building of our nation, to celebrate the constant rebuilding of our nation, as they say, towards a more perfect union. I hope you get to see and marvel at some fireworks this summer evening maybe with a slice of apple pie or a hot dog.

Speaking of summer, I want to tell you a story from a summer past, my first summer after coming home from college. Truly this story happened many times, but I want to tell you about just one instance.

Maybe it might sound familiar to you all with young ones, or maybe you once were a young one visiting home.

I loved school; I loved being a part of the community of learners. I loved being out on my own, I loved to study...I know, who says that. But I loved that how what I read and learned, how it began to change my world view.

I started to understand the world differently, I started to see how big the world really is. I mean something really important happens when we are at school. We grow up, we try new things, get some new life lessons.

And then summer would come, and it would be time to go home and reconnect to the mothership. I remember being at home and wanting to share all the new stuff that I learned.

My folks were like yeah ok, but first go take the trash out. Well have you ever thought about recycling this or this or composting that with this, you see when you compost you can create some good fertilizer for the garden, Its good for the environment.

Did you know that the environment is made up of connecting ecological, my folks said hold it right there, we used to change you diapers, go compost that on your way taking the trash out. Id say Yall just don't understand...

Maybe this sounds just a little familiar... I think something similar is happening to Jesus in our gospel reading today. Its as though Jesus is back home on his summer vacation.

He has just spent much time out in the world with his disciples performing miracles, healing the sick, making the blind see, and teaching truths about the kingdom of God. And then he goes home, to try to do the same. But he is met with skepticism and disbelief.

They said, Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands!

Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?”

Jesus knew something about the gifts that God gives to each of us, each of you. The gifts of sharing your faith, the gifts of hope, the gifts that you have, the gifts of generosity, the gifts that reveal the truth about building the kingdom of God.

Because Then Jesus said to them, “Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house.”

The gifts that God gives you are meant to be shared with the world. They aren't meant for yourself alone. You have a calling that will take you away from home, out into the surrounding communities.

Jesus then called the twelve disciples and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics.

Jesus makes this shift and highlights for us the truth that in order to utilize the power that God bestows on those who believe we must leave our homes. We must go into the world.

The same is true for our beloved St. David's community. As we immerse from this pandemic and look to rebuild our community we must live into our mission now more than ever. To know God in Jesus Christ and to make Christ known to others.

In order to make Christ known to others, we got to go talk to them, we got to go share the love of God that we know, we got to go. The time is now,

The future of our community here, the future of our city, the future of our country, the future of our world needs us to go out. It needs us make the decision. It needs us to get invested. It is going to take us all. Each and every single one of us.

We are here celebrating the forth of July, celebrating movements of freedom. Celebrating these movements of independence let them inspire us to go. We celebrate people who like Jesus and his disciples were faced with a choice. The choice of staying home or going out into the world and building something in God's name. And now it's our turn. The world needs us.

The time is now.