



**Pastoral Update—October 30, 2020**

*Refresh my heart in Christ. Philemon 1:20b*



*Precious Lord, take my hand  
Lead me on, let me stand  
I am tired, I'm weak, I am worn  
Through the storm, through the night  
Lead me on to the light  
Take my hand, precious Lord  
Lead me home.*

My conversations with people lately have made think of this hymn, *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*. It helps us put our burdens on the Lord.

These days have really been challenging and difficult. We have many burdens, yet we carry on day by day. Sometimes it's good to take a little break to have our hearts refreshed. My husband, Brian, and I went for a hike a few weekends ago at Woods Canyon Lake. My heart, mind, and soul were refreshed by the fresh air, the pine trees, the fall color, and the sparkling lake. It was enjoyable to get away from the hustle bustle of the city to the quiet of the woods pierced only by the calls of mountain jays and ravens soaring over the water. I was refreshed with the peace of Christ in God's creation. This photo reflects the beauty of the day.

I hope you will take time to refresh your heart in Christ, as we are in this for the long haul. I am really proud of Desert Cross for the ways we have adapted to continue and grow our mission. Last Sunday was "Innovation Sunday" because we had our first livestream service and our first virtual congregational meeting. We worshiped and communed, we met on Zoom, we elected new council and chamber members, and we called a new Associate Pastor! There were humbling bumps along the way, but we will get back up and try again! This shows us that we can do new and hard things, and that we will get through the pandemic together coming out stronger, as we grow and learn new ways of being church.

Thank you for the ways that you support me, our staff and leadership, and the mission of Desert Cross. We can't do it without you. And please, take some time to connect with God and nature, as you take the Lord's hand who leads us through and holds us up. We have a lot to look forward to and hope for!

May your heart be refreshed,

*Pastor Andrea*

P.S. Refresh your heart and make sure to check out our new November Playlists on Hope!

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