



Pastoral Update—August 28, 2020



He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths. Micah 4:2

This dusty, red path is a hiking trail in Sedona that Brian and I traversed recently in unusually high temperatures. The trail was rocky and challenging, yet it was verdant with plentiful trees and cacti. At times I felt overcome by the heat, yet there was abundant shade and a breeze for rest. In the middle of the trail there was no reward but to put one foot in front of the other and keep moving. The trail taught me to take my time, follow the marked path, rest often, and drink water frequently. It was difficult but learning the ways of the path was worth it.



The tender mercy of our God...guides our feet into the path of peace. Lk. 1:79

Moving along brought a hint of reward. Although shade was less abundant, a beautiful sight peeked above the trees in the far distance. That inspired us to continue our labor, accompanied by cooling water, encouraging words, and rest, after which we kept moving one step at a time. As we continued struggling down the path, I had time to reflect upon our collective trials in this pandemic trusting that God is leading us with grace and mercy.



He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

Our hiking trials led to this magnificent sight that brought peace to our souls! The path was difficult, but we worked together to overcome the challenges. The pandemic has been a most challenging time topped off by natural disaster, racial injustice, and divisive politics. All of this falls under the umbrella of social justice. God calls us to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly. We hear that as a Christian rally cry to put God's word into practice. Social justice addresses *humanity* issues that transcend politics and opinions. When the church addresses social justice, it is in the spirit of interpreting God's word to current times, living out faith, and following Jesus' teachings. Micah points out that we are mere mortals. God is God and shows us what is good. The church must share a voice in social justice issues. Together we can make a difference for good to reach God's goal of SHALOM: world peace. We will walk the difficult path humbly, as God fills our hearts with mercy, wisdom, and strength to face the challenges.

Our September Education Playlist theme is "Justice" to prepare our hearts for the days ahead. *The Bible Project* video, "[Biblical Justice](#)," lays the groundwork for our call to walk the path for peace.

With love,
Pastor Andrea