

Wherever Christ resides, Christ calls. And, wherever Christ is given welcome to be present in our minds, hearts, lives, and whole being...change happens. A new experience, different perspective, heart-felt conversation, laughter, tears...Christ resides, calls, and a journey of change begins.

A few years ago, I sat on the last leg of a flight, worrying about my destination. What would I say? Who would I meet? What would it all look like? In the seat ahead of me a young girl of 5 years was flying for the very first time. As people were loading, I heard her godmother beside her ask, "What questions do you have about flying?"

The questions began pouring out of the girl, and the godmother answered them all, even when the answer was, "I'm not sure how that happens. I just know that it does."

When the plane was on the runway, she started to relate to the girl what was going to happen next. "Now we are waiting for our turn to go, like at a traffic light." "Now we are going to go faster and faster." "Now we are going to lift into the air." The engines roared louder and louder as the plane lifted. I felt my own stomach drop and the force of lift-off hit my body...not a word was spoken. Then, a sweet small voice said, "Ooohhh!" (Pause.) "I had no idea!!!!!"

That experience of flying changed her understanding of the world and its possibilities. She will never be the same. Her faith and trust in her godmother translated into faith in her journey, and I imagine, eased future journeys as well. Witnessing the experience also changed me.

In my mind, I imagine by now the girl has experienced flight delays, inclement weather, being re-routed, and numerous other inconveniences. Yet the more she flies the more confident and trusting she will be with the process of journeying, and arriving. She will know what to pack. She will prepare to do lots of waiting. Yet for all the stress and upheaval, I imagine that everywhere she arrives the girl finds a reason to exclaim with awe, "I had no idea!!!!!"

We are journeying as a faith community in Arizona. We have changes, delays, re-routing, etc. We journey with faith in the One who beckons, trusting our life experiences, vocations, and past ministry have prepared us for these moments. We are imperfect, yet are divinely entrusted.

Christ resides with us, and within us. Christ also calls us forward. Together may we journey the path before us with wisdom, grace, love, and purpose.

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