

As we continue with our Lenten journey, I pray that you would continue to grow more deeply into your understanding of yourself as beloved child of God. As we move into the section of Lent where we receive several lengthy passages from John's Gospel, so rich in symbolism, this poem, often attributed to Sir Francis Drake, seems very appropriate for us to meditate on this week...

Disturb us, Lord,
when we are too well pleased with ourselves;
when our dreams have come true
because we have dreamed too little,
when we arrived safely
because we sailed too close to the shore.

Disturb us, Lord, when
with the abundance of things we possess
we have lost our thirst
for the waters of life;
having fallen in love with life,
we have ceased to dream of eternity
and in our efforts to build a new earth,
we have allowed our vision
of the new Heaven to dim.

Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,
to venture on wider seas
where storms will show your mastery;
where losing sight of land,
we shall find the stars.
We ask You to push back
the horizons of our hopes;
and to push into the future
in strength, courage,
hope, and love.

Please continue to pray for the Parish Council engaged in discerning our mission and direction for the future, as we seek to love God and serve our community more.

May St. Joseph, Cuthbert of Lindisfarne, Thomas Cranmer, Thomas Ken, and all the Saints walk with you this Lent... *Sam*