



## Grateful, Thankful, Blessed

Blessings both ways!

On Sunday, January 18th St. Andrew's was blessed to have Dillon Hausauer lead our morning worship. This week Rev. Laurie received the following message from Dillon, thanking US for our warm welcome. Blessings both ways! Here is Dillon's message:

*Thank you for your warm welcome and engagement when I joined you Sunday Jan. 18. It was a gift to be with you.*

*Following the service, many of you took time to share your own stories with me. You spoke honestly about trials, struggle, and suffering; thank you for your openness and for trusting me with these tender parts of your lives. We all walk through difficulty but none of us does so alone.*

*The day after our time together, I attended a meeting of a religion and bioethics interest group where we discussed suffering. Much of the conversation explored how faith and spiritual practices shape how people perceive and endure suffering. An important insight, however, was that suffering can also shape faith itself.*

*In the sermon, we touched on James 1:2-4, which reminds us that the testing of our faith produces endurance. Romans 5:3-5 takes this idea further, naming a hard but hope-filled truth: suffering leads to endurance, endurance to character, and character to hope. This is not a shallow optimism, but a hope grounded in God's faithfulness and redemption.*

*My prayer is that, even in the midst of what is heavy or uncertain, you may know that God is at work, quietly and faithfully, holding you and shaping hope that does not disappoint.*

Thanks, Dillon