

June 20, 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

My wife, Aurora, our sons, Huw (5-yrs) and Henrik (newborn), and I are very much looking forward to meeting you all! Henrik was born just a few days ago on June 16, and, thanks be to God, Aurora and Henrik are healthy and happy. We are on track to head out of Alexandria, VA, on Friday, June 24, and embark on a grand road trip toward Rochester, MN. I will be ordained to the priesthood on June 30, at St. Mark's Cathedral, Minneapolis, and my first official day as a priest in your midst will be July 18.

Thus says the Lord, "Behold, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:19a)

This is a major time of change for all of us – for your faith communities and for my family. Major transitions can be exciting and full of hope and possibilities while at the same time difficult, unsettling, and scary. The above verse from Isaiah helps to remind us of the presence and purpose of God in every moment. Often when I find myself overwhelmed or full of worry I take a deep breath and remind myself to pray and look for signs of God's grace.

"Everything changes, nothing stands still." – Heraclitus (c. 535 – c. 475 BCE)

Life is a journey to be shared. My family and I look forward to becoming an integral part of your community and to sharing in your joys and struggles. I am looking forward to being a priest, teacher, and pastor with you all, to offering spiritual leadership and also to learning from your unique perspectives. Together we will listen for the movement of the Spirit in our midst leading us toward an even greater loving relationship with God, with one another, and with all whom we encounter on the Way.

Blessings to you all! Please don't hesitate to contact me by email at revmaltbie@gmail.com or 651-269-2901. Our new address is: 1533 8 ½ Ave SE, Rochester, MN 55904 (near Ben Franklin Elementary).

Faithfully in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a horizontal line ending in a small crossbar.

Colin Maltbie and family

