

July 12, 2023

Hello from FSLDW President Elizabeth

Sunday July 2, I was delighted to join worship at South Shore United Church, Tryon, PEI and bring greetings on your behalf.

Signs of welcome overflowed. A smiling greeter welcomed me to the space. A large inclusivity flag draped the front rail. A red Christ candle rested on the communion table.

Much to my delight, my friend, colleague and classmate from the Atlantic School of Theology, Rev. Beth Brehaut was leading worship while filling in for minister Rev. Dr. Karen MacLeod-Wilkie.

As worship began, with profound courage and tears Beth shared with the congregation the very painful reality that her son had been admitted to palliative care. One does not need to know the details to know the deep sadness of such a reality. With quiet grace a member of the choir stepped forward and stood beside Beth as she shared the difficult news. For a moment it was as if we were all breathing as one.

It was a Holy moment as Grace and Courage filled the sanctuary. For indeed I do not know how one can stand before others and share such hard news without knowing Spirit within and beyond.

In closing we sang the classic, Great is Thy Faithfulness. The refrain words, *"All I have needed thy hand hath provided"* continue to echo through my heart. May it be so for Beth, her son and her family; for all who are living through profound grief.

I asked Beth if I could share this vignette. "Go for it" she replied. "We need all the prayers we can get."

In our presence, in our longings may each of us in our own way, be part of that hand that provides.

In Peace,

Elizabeth
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Check our FSLDW Facebook page for pictures of South Shore United Church sanctuary.