



# Preaching the New and the Now

Thursday, November 5, 2020 | 7 p.m.

Bishop Gregory G.M. Ingram, Presiding Prelate, First Episcopal District

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# *Introduction*

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# Summary

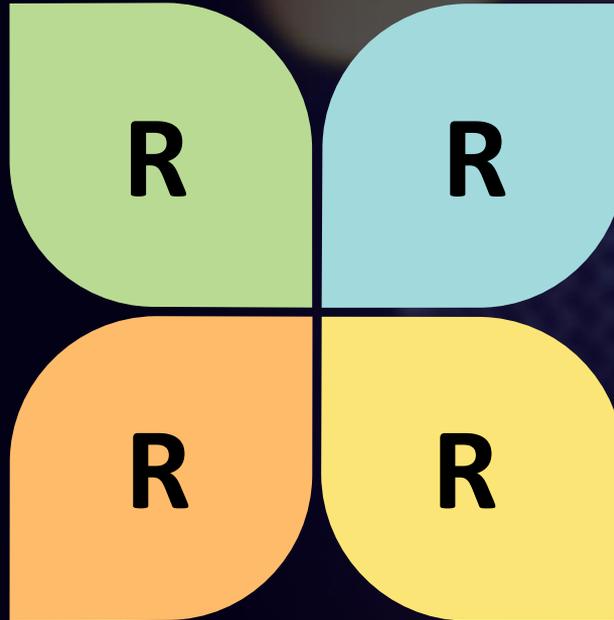
Preaching the New and the Now requires that we:

## ● **Retool**

*Be sensitive to the times in which we live, by sharpening our tools and our preaching gifts – or totally replace them if they are not working effectively*

## ● **Renew**

*Take advantage of opportunities to rest and hear from God anew, so that He can fill us with the wisdom and knowledge that is to be imparted “for such a time as this”*



## ● **Re-assess**

*Continually assess whether we are meeting the high standard that Paul set for Timothy in 2 Timothy 4:2*

## ● **Re-engage**

*Provide consistent, well-prepared, concise, meaningful and hopeful messages which point people to Christ and not the preacher*

# Retool

*Same Message, New Method*

1. Charles Wesley's timeless hymn has taken on new meaning: ***"To serve the present age, my calling to fulfill, O may it all my powers engage to do my Master's will!"***
2. Succinctly, when we mention "retool," it carries a poignant message that we must consider "to do our Master's will"
3. **"Re"** is a prefix that means to "do again" or "go back"
4. Likewise, **"tool"** is "an instrument necessary to the efficient execution of one's profession or trade"



Example: Preaching even when we don't know who's listening

# Retool Continued

*You Have the Mic -- Unmute yourself*

## *Remember:*

1. We have at least 52 opportunities to proclaim the Word of God
2. We are still in a pandemic -- and we may be here for much longer
3. It behooves us to make friends with technology and enhance our skills
4. We must also be prepared to continue some form of virtual worship when we are permitted to return to in person worship



zoom



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# Reimagining Ministry

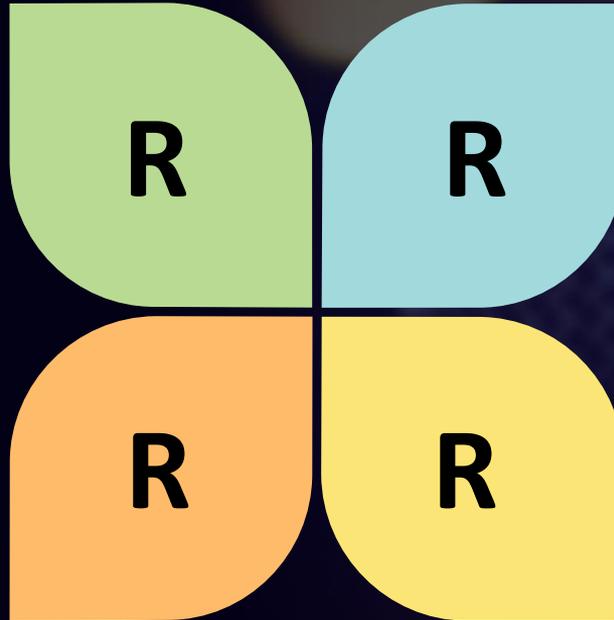
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# *“Our worship must shift*

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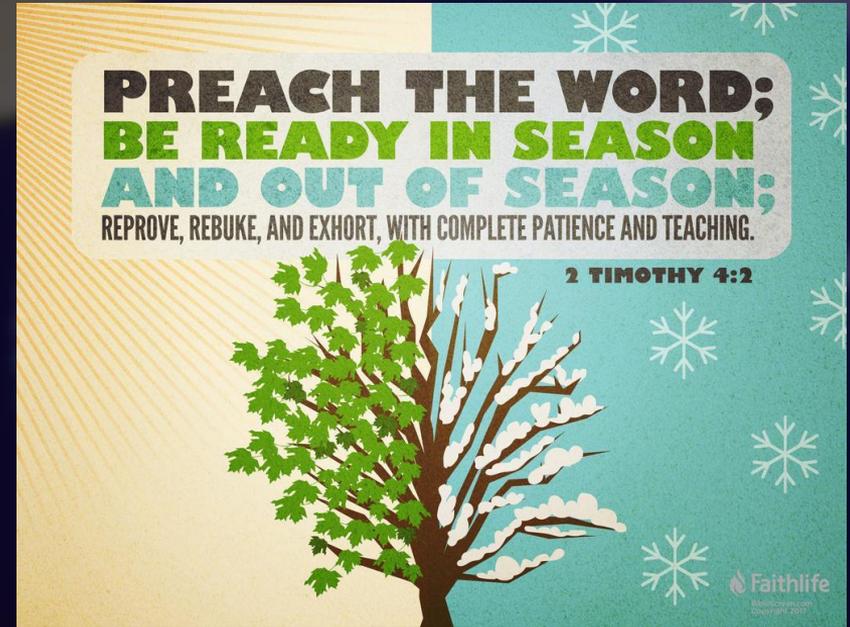
*in times of trauma and tragedy just as it should in seasons of thriving and triumph.”*

- Emmett G. Price III, “There is a Balm in Gilead: A Call to Lament Together”

# Re-assess

*Preach in-season and out-of-season*

1. Very few of us are “**natural born**” anything (e.g., athletes train in the off-season; artists practice to perfect their performance; doctors, clinicians and educators engage in ongoing certification and professional development, etc.)
2. I learned a long time ago, “**it’s not what you got, it’s how you work it**”
3. We must take another look at *what* we are preaching and *how* we are preaching



# Re-assess Continued

Are you “talking loud and saying nothing”?

*Remember:*

**1. Content vs. fluff**

*Shortened sermons are needed for shortened worship experiences*

**2. Preaching without affirmation**

*The absence of call and response is real*

**3. We can reach more souls than ever before**

*Your ministry can extend around the world from your living room*

**4. Paint a clear picture**

Each week our preaching must be intentional, relevant and in preparation for whatever challenges our members will face in the next week

*Are You Ready For...*



*Or Are Your Messages...*



# Reimagining Ministry

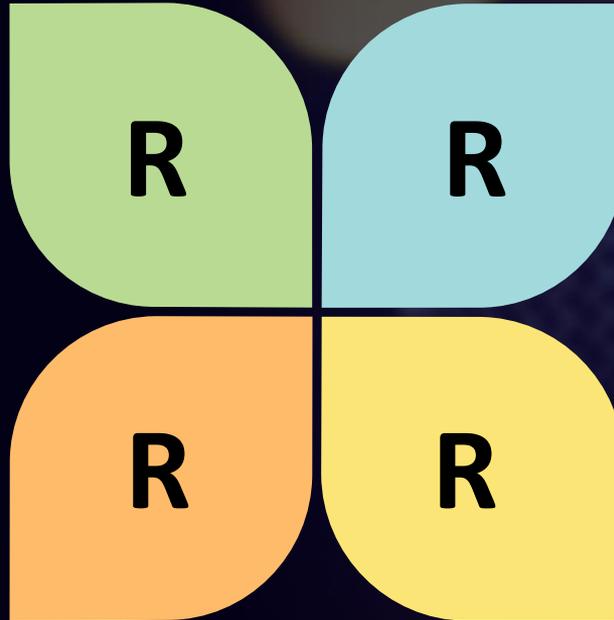
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# Renew

## *Your Soul's Health Matters*

1. We must commit to **deeper depths of study** and sermon preparation
2. Our public persona is an outgrowth of our **private worship**
3. We can **reclaim** the time you once committed to going to and from church for activities
4. Even Jesus took the time to push away the crowds and spend time with God.
  - Why shouldn't we use the time that COVID-19 has afforded us to draw closer to Him and enjoy Sabbath rest?



# Renew Continued

*"How is it With Your Soul?"*

## *Remember*

1. Pastors and preachers need a place to feed their souls, too
2. What is this season preparing us for -- and how does that impact our preaching, teaching and discipleship?
3. What is the point of our preaching and why do we preach in the first place?



IT'S OK  
TO NOT BE OK

# Reimagining Ministry

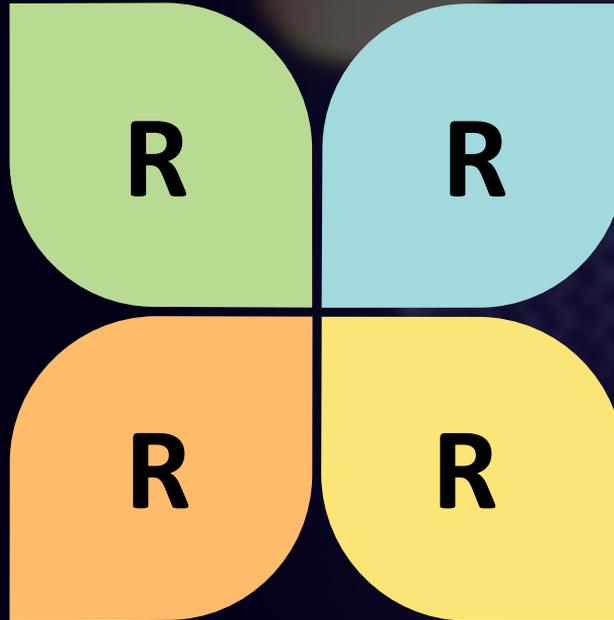
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# *“What makes Christian worship true and relevant*

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*and how can our liturgical gatherings shape and express  
authentic Christian faith and life in the world of everyday?*

- Don E. Saliers, *Worship Comes to Its Senses*

# Re-engage

*People Have Options, Make them Pick Yours*

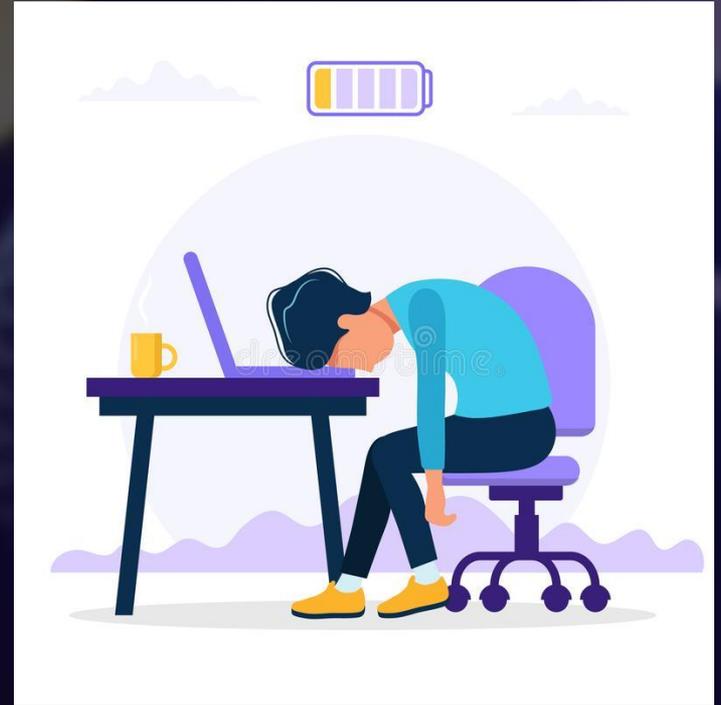
1. Given that our parishioners are consuming our worship services virtually, it is easy for a worshipper to catch **one or more worship services around the world** in the time it generally takes to sojourn to the sanctuary, sit through Sunday service and return home
2. This means that our virtual congregations have many more worship options and can **“Zoom out and “Zoom In”** to other worship experiences if what we are serving them is stale or otherwise fails to nourish them sufficiently



# Re-engage Continued

*People Zoom In and Zoom Out*

1. Sermon too long? I'm Zooming out
2. Too much fluff and not enough stuff to help me? I'm Zooming out
3. Message not relevant to the local and national issues that are impacting my life and my family? I'm Zooming out
4. Consistent, well-prepared, concise, meaningful and hopeful messages which points to Christ and not the preacher? I'm Zooming in -- and inviting my friends and family to do the same



# *“Is there no balm in Gilead?”*

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*Is there no physician there? Why then is there no healing for the wound of my people?” – Jeremiah 8:22*

The children of God are asking the same question today.

# Jesus is the Balm in Gilead

The communities where our churches have been planted for generations are watching us to see how we are ministering to their spiritual and physical needs for such a time as this.

I am convinced that once they see the Jesus that is their Balm in Gilead: the Jesus that is preached about, celebrated and exalted in worship week in and week out...



I am confident that more than one will come running and ask, "What must I do to be saved?"



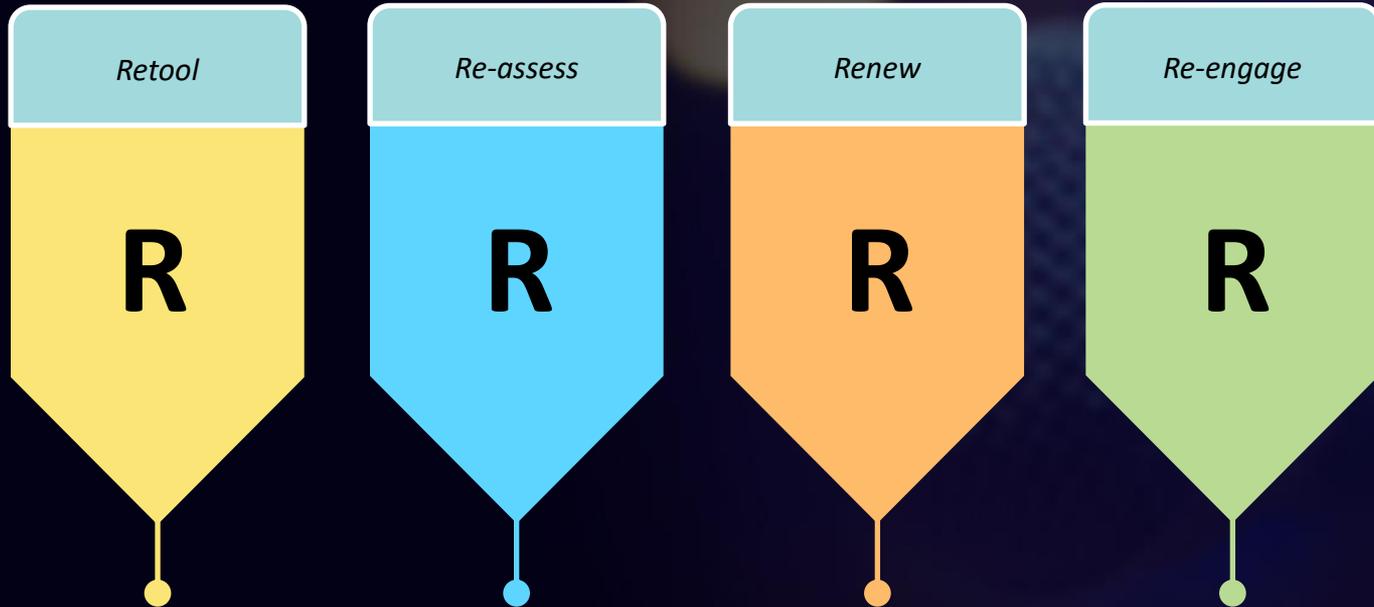
the Jesus that is calling them to relationship with Him but also compelling them to complete their census, register and vote...

the Jesus that is able to sustain them through the pandemic and beyond...



# Preaching in the New and Now

Spend time in prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to help you answer



*Are you sharpening your tools and your preaching gifts?*

*Are you meeting the high standard in 2 Timothy 4:2?*

*Are you resting and hearing from God anew?*

*Are you preaching messages which point people to Christ alone?*

# Let's Keep in Touch



*Do You Have  
Any Questions?*

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