

On Monday, I wrote this Facebook post on my personal account after watching two news casts about this “*unprecedented*” time we are all living in. My wife and I have had several conversations about the use of that word in connection to our lives and it has not sat well with either of us, but for some reason on Monday morning it struck me in a way that I could no longer ignore. Below is what I wrote,

*I am tired of the word **unprecedented**.*

*According to Google this word means, " never done or known before." This pandemic is not unprecedented; historically, it has happened before. This locked down Christmas is not unprecedented; people's religious traditions have been altered, taken away and changed many times before (ask the survivors of the Holocaust about that. Ask our indigenous brothers and sisters about that) Not even people's poor attitudes and buying into misinformation is unprecedented; unfortunately, that is not new.*

*Nothing about this time or this year is unprecedented, except the belief that we as people are somehow entitled to a life without hardship. If that is how we are using that word, to mean we believe that we are entitled to everything we want, whenever we want, then fine use that word, but I am guessing that most people would not want to say that out loud.*

*This is not an unprecedented time. This is a time for all of us who have never faced significant challenge or hardship to open our eyes, ears, minds, and hearts and see that we are not entitled to anything, which, in my opinion, should then encourage us all to deeply appreciate what we have and, even more importantly, stop ignoring the real hardships faced by people every single day.*

Sometimes when you write or say something in a public way, days later you ponder anew whether you should have. I do not feel that about what I wrote, I stand by it fully. I feel like we all need to really put this year into a different perspective. Yes, it been tough. Yes, we have missed out on a lot. Yes, I do not want to do it again; but its not unprecedented. To say so means that we only understand this time through how it has affected us alone and that is not what our faith teaches us. May we strive to always see the bigger picture and to always remember those around us who lives, and those lives they love, are just as important as ours.

Sincerely,

Rev. Adam Hall