

VIEW FROM THE HEIGHTS

June 2022

Greetings,

On June 2nd, Britain and the Commonwealth of Nations will celebrate Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee. People across the Globe will join together to honour one of the world's longest reigning monarchs.ⁱ The Queen's unwavering commitment to the Commonwealth has earned her a place in history (and in hearts) far beyond her years-on-the-throne.

Her dedication to duty can be attributed both to her parents' example and to her own Christian faith. In a Christmas message, the Queen said,

*"For me, the life of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, whose birth we celebrate today, is an inspiration and an anchor in my life. A role model of reconciliation and forgiveness, he stretched out his hands in love, acceptance and healing. Christ's example has taught me to seek to respect and value all people of whatever faith or none."*ⁱⁱ

"Respect and value [for] all people of whatever faith or none." Elizabeth II has walked this talk. Under her leadership, Britain has progressed from an Anglican country to a multifaith nation. In 1953, non-Church of England clergy played only token roles in the Coronation ceremony. Today, royal and civic events include representatives of many faiths. Prince Charles, it has been reported, envisions the title, "Defender of the Faith" to be one that embraces a panoply of traditions.

Rightly so! Communities and countries need as much wisdom as possible. The deeper and broader their moral insights, the greater the wellbeing of people and place. One of the joys of ministering in Medford, is our thriving interfaith community. 😊

This summer, the Commonwealth will celebrate the Queen and the USA will celebrate its freedom from Royal trappings. Both good things! But the greatest blessings will come when Britain, and America, and the world follow the example of Medford and Her Majesty:

"Respect and value all people of whatever faith and none."

Deepest Blessings,

Brenda

ⁱ Louis XIV reigned for 72 years & 110 days.

ⁱⁱ Scripture Union, "The Servant Queen and the King She Serves" 2016