

The Abundant Life

August 9, 2018

For Sunday, August 12th

Reflections From Victoria Hatch

WONDER BREAD

This Sunday's gospel continues the previous weeks' readings and builds on what has gone before; however, this week sums up the very essence of the Bread Discourse from John's gospel. I realize the title is somewhat trite, but it is an attempt to capture the unbelievable reality of the life-giving gift that God in Christ gives to us in His self-offering of himself at His Crucifixion.

The promise of eternal life is offered if we are open to the possibilities. But enter in the human condition and our need to complain or at least question this Jesus who claimed to come from "heaven" or above. Who does he think he is, anyway? We know his parents and where he's from. Our ability to find fault, ridicule or bully is unfortunately universal. We want to be better than someone else or be higher in the pecking order. It makes one think of some of the negativity posted on social media. Then Jesus reminds us, "No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me." (v. 44)

Jesus reminds us that God is the initiator. As arrogant as we may be, and as much as we would like to be in charge, God is ultimately in charge. Only when we let down our guard or defenses are we able to hear or feel or experience the love of God so abundantly offered. The "Wonder Bread" enters in when we recognize the bread offered week after week from God's table and its transformative power for us. It reminds us that it's about bridges to our brothers and sisters, not barriers that separate us from one another.

"No one has seen the Father except Jesus; so, he is the only one who can make the Father known. And whoever believes in him has eternal life." This is the promise which is offered to all who have faith, remembering that faith is about letting go and trusting God's grace and mercy to sustain us, no matter the circumstances.

Featured Scripture

John 6:35, 41-51

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." They were saying, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" Jesus answered them, "Do not complain among yourselves. No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

FAITH BUILDING

Sundays at 9:15 AM in the Library

The Episcopal Cafè

August

8/12 Christian Communication: Reflection on Ephesians 4:25-5:2.
Led by Craig Ewing. [1]Read about it

8/19 Wisdom's Table - A Reflection on Proverbs 9:1-6.
Led by Audrey Spencer [2]Read about it

8/26 Whom shall we Serve? Reflection on Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18.

Led by Alan Zimmerman [3]Read about it

Our Adult Faith Building Classes on Tuesdays will be on hiatus for the month of August.

Tuesdays at 5:00 PM in the Library Beginning on September 4th:

How to enhance your relationship with God on a daily basis. This series is designed to assist participants in developing and deepening a daily spiritual discipline.

9/4 What is a Rule of Life? Facilitated by Br. John Charles

9/11 Creating you own Rule of Life Facilitated by Audrey Spencer

Hospitality Ministry

We hope you will join us for coffee and conversation in the Parish Hall after either service on Sunday.

There are many upcoming opportunities for you to sponsor a Sunday Coffee Hour after either the 8:00 AM or 10:30 AM service. The sign-up notebook is on the table as you enter the Parish Hall.

WANTED:

Parish Life Hospitality Coordinators – If you enjoy planning and managing social events, we'd like to talk to you! We're currently seeking volunteers to help coordinate our after-service hospitality on Sundays. Partnering with the Sexton, volunteers will provide oversight to ensure adequate host presence and suitable refreshments following the 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM services. Questions? Please contact Fred Ross at (415) 710-9180 or email Fredeross@comcast.net. (NOTE TO ALL: Donated food items suitable for Sunday hospitality are always welcome. Please deliver your contributions to the Parish Hall kitchen.)

The Parades/Special Events Team

The Parades/Special Events Team is an outreach ministry which assists in making St. Paul's visible at the various parades and special events scheduled in the community throughout the year. Last year, St. Paul's participated in PRIDE, Veterans and Black History parades as well as the

Neighborhoods Fair in Palm Springs. New Team members are needed to assist in keeping our community presence active and growing. Planning meetings take place the last Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Library. For more information or to volunteer to be on the Team, please call Jerry Di Noto, in the office at 760.320.7444.

Circle Suppers

If you are NOT currently participating in our small group potluck suppers known as Circle Suppers, now is your chance to join. All current participants will be assigned to new groups this year; our goal is to expand the number of people you will meet at Circle Suppers. These potluck groups have been a great success and we look forward to growing the number of participants. New groups will be formed on August 23, 2018, so be sure to sign up right away. You'll be happy you did! (Sign-up forms are in the Narthex and the Parish Hall.)

Eucharistic Visitor Training

If you're interested in administering the Eucharist to those who are homebound or in a care facility, this one-day training session on Eucharistic Visitor Training on Saturday, August 25, 8:30 AM – 2:00 PM, is for you. The Episcopal Church recognizes that some members cannot attend church to participate in the Holy Eucharist. The ministry of the Eucharistic Visitor (EV) makes the Eucharist available to them. This class will teach you the art and history of Eucharistic Visiting. (Successful completion of the class is required to be licensed by the diocese.) The cost is \$20; handouts and lunch will be provided. Please contact Alyson Terry at aterry@edsd.org or 619-481-5454, if you have any questions. The training venue will be All Souls' Episcopal Church, San Diego. To register, contact Alyson Terry or Br. John (brjohncharles@gmail.com).

Parish Life Book Club

Parish Life Book Club meets on the first Tuesday each month at 1 PM in the Library and new members are always welcome. On September 3, 2018, Book Club

has selected Ordinary Grace by William Kent Krueger. In the summer of 1961 tragedy befalls a Minnesota family and a thirteen-year-old boy finds himself thrust into adulthood. It is a novel about discovering the price of wisdom and the enduring grace of God. Book Club is a group of people who enjoy reading and talking about the books they read. For more information please contact Alan Zimmerman at alanzimmerman@icloud.com.

The Palm Springs Library has 1 book and 1 audiobook to loan.

Buy Your Tickets for Godspell and Benefit Refugees

St. Luke's North Park is proud to present a special one-night performance of the musical "Godspell" as its inaugural Refugee Benefit Concert on Friday, September 7 at 7:00 PM at St. Paul's Cathedral (2728 Sixth Ave, San Diego). All proceeds from this event will benefit St. Luke's job development work with the Sudanese and Congolese refugee communities of San Diego. Based on the Gospel according to Matthew, "Godspell" is the first musical theatre offering from composer Stephen Schwartz who went on to write such well-known hits as Wicked, Pippin, and Children of Eden. (You can buy your tickets online at stlukesnorthpark.org/godspell.) Purchase includes a \$50 tax-deductible donation to St. Luke's. Read more [4]here

Save the Date!

Saturday, September 15th, 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM

St. Phillip's Lemon Grove & The Episcopal Diocese of San Diego invite you to the 3rd Annual Latino/Hispanic Heritage Celebration at the Church, located at 2660 Hardy Drive, Lemon Grove, CA 91945. There will be cuisine, games, La Loteria Electoral (raffle), bounce house, Aztec Dancers, Mariachi, Art Displays, Carousels and a DJ. For more information, contact Joe Gamboa at gamboa2@cox.net.

In the Fire Zone

An update message regarding the emergency evacuation of St Hugh's in

Idyllwild:

“Thank you, St. Paul-in-the-Desert, for your gracious response, prayers, and support for St. Hugh's Parish during the recent emergency fire evacuation. We are truly grateful! Our beloved church is still standing. Fr. Dan and Deacon Patricia continue to check on the safety and well-being of our members and others in the aftermath of the evacuation. We are also grateful for the supportive responses and prayers from our Diocese and from the other Episcopal Churches in the surrounding Mission Areas. Please continue to hold St Hugh's and all of the communities affected by the fires in your prayers.”

Report Clergy Misconduct

As part of our ongoing commitment to creating a safe haven for everyone, our diocese trains people in the prevention of misconduct and encourages all to report misconduct. All reported incidences are taken seriously and investigated thoroughly and confidentially. If you believe you have experienced misconduct of any kind, please contact John Seitman, 858-793-4555 or Equilla Luke, 760-583-0485.

Compassionate Care Task Force

Our diocesan task force on compassionate care for victims of clergy sexual misconduct seeks to connect with those who have experienced misconduct. If you have reported clergy sexual misconduct and have information about the reporting or post-reporting experience that could be helpful to their work, please refer to the task force members, all of whom are listed on the diocesan website: [5]Task-Force. Information on how to report misconduct is [6]available here.

Church Office Hours

The Parish Office hours have changed for the summer. From Memorial Day, the Parish Office will be closed on Friday afternoons, beginning at 11:30 AM and will be unavailable for walk-in business. These hours will remain in

place through the Labor Day weekend.

If you call on Monday when we are closed to the public, please leave a message. In case of an emergency, a priest will return your call.

Print a copy of The Abundant Life?

[7]Print a copy

Sunday Worship Childcare

Childcare is available for both the 8:00 a.m. and the 10:30 a.m. services.

Bullying Behavior Not Welcome Here

At St. Paul in the Desert we welcome all worshipers to a place that is free of violence and bullying.

Physical, verbal or emotional violence against others or against oneself is not acceptable because of our understanding of what it means to follow Jesus. Please let Jesus' command to love your neighbor as yourself be your guide.

“It Gets Better” is a series of video messages to encourage Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, or Transgender youth and let them know that they are loved as they are.

“A Blessing for Those Who Are Bullied” was written by the Rt. Rev. Steven Charleston, a Bishop of the Episcopal Church.

It is not enough to say “NO” to bullies. It is important to stand up for people and to provide resources for those who have been the targets.

The Church of St. Paul in the Desert

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References

1. http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=2547
2. <http://metanoia-mrc.blogspot.com/2012/08/wisdoms-table-proverbs-91-6-sermon.html>
3. <http://wmchapel.org/2012/08/whom-shall-we-serve-joshua-241-2a-14-18/>
4. <https://stpaulsps.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/San-Diego-Godspell-Poster-copy.png>
5. <https://edsd.org/equipping-leaders/safeguarding/task-force/>
6. <http://edsd.org/equipping-leaders/safeguarding/reporting-misconduct/>
7. <https://stpaulsps.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/The-Abundant-Life-August-2-2018.pdf>