



St. Paul's ePistle from McHenry

April 6, 2016



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Holy Eucharist and the Laying on of Hands for Healing

Tonight at 6:30 p.m.
All are welcome!



Women's Wednesday

Tonight at St. Paul's
7:15 p.m.

The group will be discussing The Great Divorce by C. S. Lewis. It's about the gulf between heaven and hell, and is sure to generate a great conversation. Come even if you haven't read it. Maybe you'll be inspired to read it after all. Women of the church and their guests are most welcome.



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Episcopal Church

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Quick Links

St. Paul website

Vestry Minutes

December 2015
January 2016
February 2016

Diaper Bank

Episcopal News
Service

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Lectionary Calendar

Forward Day by Day



Thoughts from Lori

I have been re-reading one of my favorite books: C.S. Lewis's The Great Divorce. The first time I read it was probably 30 or more years ago. Then I read it again 15 or 16 years ago, and while I don't remember much about how I experienced that second reading, the book remained on my favorites list. It still remains on that list, but I'm struck by how differently I'm experiencing it this time. It's not that the book is different. *I'm* different.

It seems to me that that's a good thing. I mean, who wants to be the same person he or she was 30 years ago or 15 years ago? Surely we all hope to grow, to expand our knowledge, to incorporate our experiences into our thinking. At least, that's what I hope for. So as I'm re-reading this book, I am remembering a good bit of it, but hearing it again for the first time, so to speak. I sometimes have that same sensation when I read scripture; that I'm encountering it again for the first time.

During Lent, those who gathered after Sunday morning church for Coffee & Conversation read and discussed the Gospel of Luke. [This is Year C in the Revised Common Lectionary - the source for our readings on Sundays - and we'll be hearing a lot of Luke. If you weren't part of the C&C discussions, you might find it very helpful to read it start to finish. It's only 24 chapters.] As we talked about Luke, we also talked about some general principles for reading scripture, such as:

1. To pray for the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit before and after reading.
2. To read the text for what it actually says rather than what we assume it says.
3. To appreciate the differences between versions of the Bible in English, particularly the difference between a translation from the original languages and a paraphrase (usually from the King James Version into more colloquial English).
4. And I would add this: that while every individual has complete access to scripture, and it is not beyond any of us, it is vital to study it in the context of Christian community.

I hope when we re-read scripture, we sometimes find ourselves experiencing it differently, hearing something new, at least from time-to-time. Otherwise, I'd ask myself anyway if I am being open to growth, open to the Holy Spirit. And before you ask, yes, there are truths which are constant. But our ability to understand and apply them is, I hope, subject to

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interpretation and change. That's why it's so important to pray as we read it and to explore it in a community of faith.

As for C.S. Lewis and The Great Divorce, I've long thought that if the canon of scripture was still open, that some of his work (along with several others I could suggest) should be included. But then I suppose it was hard enough for the early church leaders to decide what to include in the first place! Can you imagine what it would be like now? In short, it would be impossible. Nevertheless, there is so much good literature out there, some overtly spiritual, some just plain great storytelling, that can speak to us, can expand our hearts and minds - and dare I say it - through which the Holy Spirit can inspire us.

Thanks be to God for scripture. Thanks be to God for good literature. And thanks be to God for the gifts of heart and mind.

Faithfully,

Loritt

Spring Parish Meeting

April 17th

We will gather after church for an informal parish meeting. Please bring a **covered dish** of your favorite food to share. And remember: we've committed to "feeding others when we feed ourselves." So **bring canned goods or non-perishables** to be donated.



ST. PAUL'S FLOWER GUILD

As part of the process of developing our own Flower Guild, there will be a FLOWER ARRANGING WORKSHOP on Saturday, April 16 from 10am to 1pm, led by two experienced flower guild members from Holy Comforter Church, Winnetka. Anyone can attend, men and women, even if you are not planning to join the flower guild - but we do hope you'll consider it! The ministry of flower arranging is to beautify the church TO THE GLORY OF GOD and in thanksgiving for the beauty of nature and the gift of creativity. Please email or call the church office to sign up: lisa@stpaulmchenry.com or 815-385-0390.

Please note! You do NOT have to attend the workshop in order to be a part of the Flower Guild!



COFFEE HOUR HOSTS STILL NEEDED!

We have re-established the role of COFFEE HOUR HOSTS here at St. Paul's. It's a fairly simple thing to do, and we'll provide instructions. It involves making the coffee, set-up and clean-up, buying or making something to serve with the coffee. Not too much and not too fancy. There are usually some frozen donuts or coffee cake in the freezer you can use. And there are always folks around to help.

Please see the sign up poster on the bulletin board in the parish hall. There are still a lot of blank dates. You can do this! There are plenty of other folks around to help. It's an opportunity to serve that enriches our life together. If you've got any questions, check with Nan Patnaude. Thanks!



Upcoming Events

- Women's Wednesday** - Tonight, 7:15 p.m.
 - Flower Guild Workshop** - Saturday, April 16, 10:00 a.m.
 - Spring Parish Meeting** - Sunday, April 17
 - Vestry** - Wednesday, April 20, 7:15 a.m.
 - Spring Grounds Clean-up Day** - Saturday, April 23
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Lessons and Hymns

Sunday, April 10, 2016
Third Sunday of Easter
by the Rev. William P. McLemore

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

The First Reading: Acts 9:1-6, (7-20). This is the dramatic story of the conversion of Saul on the road to Tarsus—quite an event in the early history of the church as St. Paul becomes one of the true leaders and theologians of the new faith.

The Epistle: Revelation 5:11-14. John beholds the elders around the throne of God along with other personages singing, "to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever."

The Gospel: John 21:1-19. Jesus appears to the disciples on their fishing trip and later at a breakfast in which there is a charge by Jesus to Peter as to the depth of his love.

THE HYMNS:

Processional Hymn: No. 182. "Christ Is Alive!" The author of this new hymn is Brian Wren (b. 1936), Emeritus Professor of Worship, Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Georgia. He is a writer, preacher, liturgics scholar, and internationally published hymn-poet. Brian is a Minister of the United Reformed Church (UK). Hope Publishing Company owns the 1975 copyrights to the text. The hymn reflects the sacrificial nature of Our Lord's Resurrection. Here is the 4th verse: "In every insult, rift and war where color, scorn, or wealth divide, he suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives though ever crucified." The tune, "Truro," is from a 1789 Psalm Book, harmonized by Lowell Mason (1792-1872).

Sequence Hymn: "Celtic Alleluia." This was written and composed by Fintan O'Carroll, born July 31, 1922 in Wexford, England. On completion of his secondary school studies, he took up a position as a clerk in the national railway. He won first prize in a traditional music competition, aged 12, playing violin, and went on to study violin at home, taking lessons as the opportunity arose. His heart was in music, and he left his railway position in 1967 after 27 years of service, whereupon he completed his degree at Trinity to gain his Bachelor of Music degree.

Presentation Hymn: No. 210. "The Day of Resurrection." This is a popular hymn of the Orthodox churches and dates back to St. John of Damascus (c. 750). It is sung in Greek churches at midnight on Easter morning. It was the tradition to begin the hymn in relative darkness and, as it was being sung, each worshipper would like their candle until they felt the "rays eternal of resurrection light" of the second verse. The tune, "Ellacombe," is by an unknown composer and appears first in the "Gesangbuch" of 1863.

Communion Hymn: No. 711. "Seek Ye First" This hymn is based on Matthew 6:33 and was written and composed by Karen Lafferty. Karen is a well-known Christian musician who lives in New Mexico, but travels around the world spreading the faith through music. She says that after years of singing in bars and saloons, she felt she needed to get closer to God. Somehow, she read this passage in Matthew and "the hymn simply fell together, along with the alleluias!" She has produced many hymns now and can be found on Facebook.

Recessional Hymn: No. 199. "Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain." This hymn is based upon Exodus 15, "The Song of Moses," and is attributed to St. John of Damascus (8th century). It has been translated from the Latin by John Mason Neale (1818-1866). The tune, "St. Kevin," was composed by Arthur S. Sullivan for this text in the "Hymnary" of 1872.

April 10th Servants

Usher: Bill Lang

Lector: Judy Robel

Intercessor: Barb Moriarty

Eucharistic Ministers: Deb Lang, Michelle Wiejaczka

Vestry Person of the Day: Sally Berweiler

Coffee Hour: Amy & Jeff Zabor, Kim & Paige Morris

From the cartoons created by
the Rev. William P. McLemore



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*"Don't miss this Saturday's exhibit by
Christian Martian Arts."*