



St. Paul's ePistle from McHenry
November 23, 2016



New and Notable...

A Prayer for Thanksgiving

Almighty and gracious Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Eve of Thanksgiving Service

Tonight at 7:00 pm

*Please note: The office will be closed
Thursday, November 24th and Friday, November 25th.*



Thoughts from Lori

Scott Peck is probably best known for his bestselling book, The Road Less Traveled written in 1978 and still widely read today. Less well known is The Different Drum, a book he wrote about the formation of community. In it he describes four stages of community: pseudo-community, chaos, emptiness, and (true or real) community. Pseudo-community operates, he says, according to an unwritten set of rules of behavior. No one is to say or do anything that offends, annoys, or irritates anyone else, and if such a thing does happen, everyone pretends to not be bothered. The goal is to smooth things over.

Chaos - an awful choice of words, if you ask me - is a stage in which recognizing differences is unavoidable. In response, individuals will resort to trying to fix or convert each other, sometimes under the guise of kindness; sometimes openly frustrated and judgmental. Emptiness - a term with biblical connotations - is the most difficult stage. It is a process in which members of the group are able to set aside barriers such as expectations, ideologies, solutions, and the need to control. It's not about giving up what one believes, but it is to be willing to get inside another's skin. Clearly, this is challenging and most people try to avoid it. But according to Peck (and I agree), it is the only path to real community.

Real or true community is a stage in which members are able to be open and vulnerable without trying to change each other. It's a community that invites honesty and values differences rather than ignoring them. Having come to this stage, there's no guarantee that a group will stay there. This is obviously true for groups like a church in which people come and go. But it is a stage or state of being that can be fostered and tended on a regular basis.

I have been thinking about all this because I am not so naive as to think that my post-election sermon on November 13 was universally well received. I'm sure it was not. But I am hoping, I am praying, that we can be honest and open with each other; that we can minimize chaos and enter into emptiness with all its inherent potential. That we, myself included, can listen to each other without judgment and thus move closer to true community.

In that spirit, I invite you to such a conversation this Sunday at Coffee & Conversation. I'm also open to setting aside time to meet with anyone who wishes to sit down with me privately. All of you are very much in my prayers and I trust that I'm in yours.

Faithfully,
Lori

2016 Diocesan Convention



Our delegates were Michelle Wiejaczka, Beth Lukas, and Pam Dietmeyer (not pictured).
Also in attendance were Barb Moriarty and Deb Lang.

Children's Chapel

This week's lesson will be "Isaiah Promises Peace." Leaders will be Bobbi Fiali and Katie & Bill Lang.



All children are welcome to come to the Seaton Room after the service for a story, snack, and activity.

In case you missed it...



***Post-Election message from
Presiding Bishop Michael Curry:***

<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/posts/publicaffairs/video-post-election-message-presiding-bishop>

**Message from Bishop Lee:
"The Challenges Before Us"**

<https://www.episcopalchicago.org/our-stories/2016/11/09/bishop-lee-challenges-us>



The usual fare...



Office Closed - November 24th & 25th
First Sunday of Advent - This Sunday, Nov. 27
Noon Eucharist - Wednesday, November 30, 12:15 pm
Men's Breakfast - December 3, 8:00 am
Angel Tree Decorating - December 4
Vestry - December 14, 7:00 pm

Lessons and Hymns
Sunday, November 27th
(The First Sunday in Advent - Year A)
by the Rev. William P. McLemore

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

First Lesson: Isaiah 2:1-5. The prophet foresees the establishment of the "Lord's house" on a high mountain where all the people will come and worship.

The Psalm: Psalm 122. The house of the Lord is the focus of this Psalm which will be a source of blessing for the people, "I pray for your prosperity."

Second Lesson: Romans 13:11-14. Paul urges his followers to "lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light."

The Gospel: Matthew 24:36-44. Jesus warns his disciples to be prepared for the coming of the "Son of Man at an unexpected hour."

THE HYMNS:

Processional Hymn: No. 59. "Hark, A Thrilling Voice" This hymn has been attributed to St. Ambrose and comes from the 6th century A.D. It is based on Romans 13:11 and Luke 21:25. The words announce the coming of Jesus and reflect the penitential flavor of Advent. "Lo! The Lamb so long expected, comes with pardon down from heaven; let us haste with tears of sorrow, one and all to be forgiven." The

tune, "Merton," is deliberate in meter and aptly conveys the spirit of Our Lord's coming and the advent of God's love.

Sequence Hymn: No. 601. "O Day of God Draw Nigh." This hymn was written by Robert Baggart Young Scott for the Fellowship of Christian Social Order in 1937. It is based loosely on Zechariah 1:14-18 in that it calls for a restored faith as part of the expected Day of the Lord.

Presentation Hymn: No. 707. "Take My Life and Let It Be." What better hymn to sing upon sharing God's Holy Sacrament than one of complete and total surrender? This hymn was written by a woman, Frances Ridley Havergal, who was the daughter of an Anglican priest who also wrote many hymns. She wrote her first hymn at the age of seven and suffered from extremely frail health most of her life. She is the author of four hymns in our hymnal and composed the music for "On Our Way Rejoicing" in the 1940 hymnal. The tune is one of over two dozen composed by the Anglican priest-musician, the Rev. John Bacchus Dykes. Its gently flowing melody reflects the offering towards God of our whole person: "Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine. Take myself, and I will be, ever, only, all for thee."

Communion Hymn: "O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. This is another Taize community musical paraphrase to a psalm (102:1-2). It was set to music by Jacques Berthier (1923-1994) in 1991, shortly before he died. The Psalm reads, "Lord, hear my prayer, and let my cry come before you; hide not your face from me in the day of my trouble."

Recessional Hymn: No. 68. "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers." This hymn is a poetic cento from Laurentius Laurenti's "Evangelica Melodica" (1700). It was translated by Sarah Findlater and appeared in her "Hymns from the Land of Luther" (1854). The imagery relies on the parable of the bridegroom found in Matthew 25:1-13. From the second verse: "The marriage feast is waiting, the gates wide open stand; rise up ye heirs of glory, the Bridegroom is at hand." The 1982 Hymnal applies a different tune to this hymn than the 1940 edition; it's a Welsh air named "Llangloffan."

November 27th Servants

Usher: Al Robel

Lector: Al Robel

Intercessor: Barbara Moriarty

Eucharistic Ministers: Pam Dietmeyer, Deb Lang

Vestry Person of the Day: Rick Carlstedt

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



*"Looks like the church got a
little low on funds this summer!"*

Funny Church Signs!



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Vestry Minutes

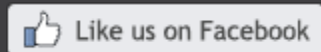
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