



St. Paul's Episcopal Church
McHenry, IL



Weekly ePistle
August 22, 2018

New and Notable

Thoughts from Lori

The following article is by the Rev. Jay Sidebotham, a well known priest in the Diocese of Chicago and a gifted cartoonist. I'm sharing this article with you with his permission. lml+

The prayer of 4th century St. Chrysostom concludes the service of Morning Prayer. It's a beautiful statement of the power of prayer, written by someone revered by our church. But just about every time I say it, I'm reminded of the fact that the author of this prayer also wrote homilies attacking the Jewish community, sermons brimming with his day's version of anti-semitism.

Episcopalians owe a great debt to Martin Luther, who inspired Thomas Cranmer as Cranmer assembled the Book of Common Prayer. Luther launched a much-needed reformation in the church and left a legacy of focus on God's unconditional love, salvation not by our efforts but by the prevenient grace of God. But he also wrote hateful rants against his Jewish neighbors, vile material that often come to mind when I hear "A mighty fortress is our God."

I was raised in a church with people steeped in scripture, people with deep prayer life. Yet as I reflect on my long life, among my vivid memories are numerous explicitly racist comments and attitudes from those same folks. One of my earliest memories of Junior High Sunday School is a newsletter from some Christian publishing group that included an article by J. Edgar Hoover excoriating Martin Luther King, claiming he was a communist. I was young but I knew something was out of whack.

All of this came to mind as I shared the tears of a news commentator as the grand jury released results of its investigation into the Catholic Church in Pennsylvania. It described the abuse of more than a thousand children. I wonder how you reacted to the news. Was it news? I learned recently that a pastor I admire resigned after accusations of sexual misconduct, inappropriate behavior in the sacred workplace. The Me-Too movement came to a church that taught me a lot.

All of it could be enough to make this priest a none (i.e., one of those folks in our culture who claim no religious affiliation). On any given day, we could find reason to make that move. All of it makes me realize that if we're not outraged, we're not paying attention. All of it calls into question the power of our faith. Is it as transformative as we say?

Of course, we can fall back on Luther's line that we are saints and sinners at the same time. And I don't mean to cast stones. We Episcopalians have built our own glass houses. I feel pretty certain that my foibles are probably neither newsworthy nor remarkable, but let me assure you they are there in full force. I know the dark places in my own heart where one could find racism, jealousy, judgmentalism, hypocrisy, indifference, resentment, schadenfreude, hankering for revenge. We need not go into detail. I generally keep them pretty well hidden. Let's just say I've got a lot of spiritual work to do.

That is part of what draws me to St. Paul, and the letter he wrote to the Romans, where he said that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. He meant all, including and perhaps especially the most religious people of his day. Maybe he was preaching to himself. I also sense that he realized that there's not that much difference between the best and the worst of us. What St. Paul knew, as he called himself the chief of sinners, is that the mercy of God is bigger than any of our shortcomings. The mercy of God binds the human community. Again, it includes all. It makes me realize why Jesus might have felt that the notorious sinners had more open ears to his message than did the really religious people of his day.

So what keeps me from becoming a none? I still believe that the church at its best can be an instrument to speak of mercy in a world that needs to hear that word. In the meantime, it's a call to any of us who consider ourselves spiritual or religious to surrender any sense that we're better than anybody else. And to cling with confidence to the one who modeled sinlessness. And to hold on to the hope that he will carry us to that day when we shall be where we would be, when we shall be what we should be, things that are not now nor could be then shall be our own.

-Jay Sidebotham

INSTRUCTED EUCHARIST Part Two this Sunday

An "instructed Eucharist" is one during which brief explanations (and sometimes Q&A) are interjected throughout the service. Since this makes the service somewhat longer, we're doing it in two segments: the Liturgy of the Word (the first half of the service) which we presented last Sunday; and the Liturgy of the Table, or the Great Thanksgiving, which is the second half, on August 26th. We'll be inviting the children in the congregation to come up front so they can see and ask their own questions if they like. Feel free to invite friends and family.

In case you missed it...



New CPR class sign up form

There is a new sign up form for the CPR/AED class in the Narthex. We did not anticipate the per person cost which is around \$30. If you signed up before, and are willing to pay the fee, please sign up again or let Lisa know in the office. The dates will be determined depending on how many sign up.

St. Paul's Flea Market

Plans are underway for a flea market here at St. Paul's at the end of September. If you are interested in setting up a table and selling a few of those extra things around your house, or would like to help in some way, please email Lisa at lisa@stpaulmchenry.com or call the office at (815) 385-0390.



There will be a bake sale and refreshments as well, so many volunteers are needed. If you can devote the morning or the afternoon (or all day!) it would be greatly appreciated! Sign up sheets are in the narthex.



St. Paul's Polo Shirts!

Now you can have your very own St. Paul's polo shirt! These are soft-touch, wrinkle-resistant pique shirts, available in all sizes, in both ladies' fit and men's. The color is French Blue, and they will have our St. Paul's logo embroidered on the front. Cost is \$20. Just let Lisa know if you'd like one and what size. There is a signup form on the table in the narthex as well. We can show our support for St. Paul's by wearing these at our events! A sample shirt is available.

The usual fare...

Lessons and Hymns for this Sunday, August 26, 2018

(Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost- Year B)

by the Rev. William P. McLemore

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

First Readings: Joshua 24:1-21, 14-18. The people promise Joshua that they will serve the Lord because the Lord has served them so well. Psalm 34:15-22, "The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous." **The Epistle:** Ephesians 6:10-20. St. Paul uses the images of a Roman soldier's armor to describe how to "withstand the evil day." **The Gospel:** John 6:56-69. Jesus tells of the dangers He will face and some of his followers depart and leave. He asks his disciples if they are leaving and they say, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life."

THE HYMNS:

Processional: No. 408. "Sing praise to God who reigns above." This hymn was penned by Johann Jakob Schutz (1640-1690), a German lawyer and also a man of deep faith and piety. It was translated into English by Elizabeth Cos. However, later in life, Schutz became a Separatist and ceased to attend his Lutheran church. Each verse ends with the triumphant "to God all praise and glory." The tune is an ancient German pastoral melody of 1529.

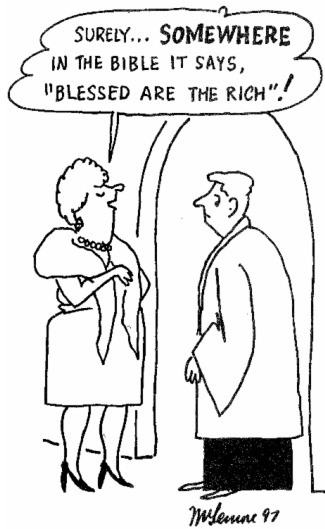
Sequence: No. 632. "O Christ the Word Incarnate." This hymn was written by William Walsham How and is based on Psalm 119:105. "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." This hymn has been in the Hymnal of the Episcopal Church since 1874 but in our current volume, the first line has been changed from "O Word of God Incarnate" to "O Christ the Word Incarnate." The tune "Munich" is taken from a quartet piece in Felix Mendelssohn's "Elijah" (1847).

Presentation: No. 517. "How lovely is thy dwelling place." This relatively new hymn is a paraphrase of Psalm 84:1-2 written by the Rev. Dr. Carl Pickens Daw, Jr., Professor of Hymnology at the Boston University School of Theology. Dr. Daw is an Episcopal priest and grew up in Tennessee as the son of a Baptism minister. It is set to the tune of "Brother James' Air" composed by James Leith Macbeth Bain (1860-1925) a Scottish hymn writer known as "Brother James" — thus the name of the tune.

Communion: "Take, O take me as I am." This is one of the best-known songs from the Iona Community in Scotland which has become a major center for ecumenism, social justice, healing, reconciliation, and worship renewal. John Lamberton Bell, a member of the Iona Community, was born in 1949 in Kilmarnock, Ayrshire Scotland. As you sing the song, you will notice that there are four phases of our faith journey in the text: (1) surrender and conversion, (2) transformation, (3) sealed and marked by God's covenant, and (4) new life together with and in God.

Recessional: No. 376, "Joyful, joyful, we adore thee." This hymn was written by a well-known Congregationalist minister, the Rev. Dr. Henry Van Dyke. His son tells the story that his father, while on a preaching visit at Williams College, came to breakfast and placed a manuscript on the table before President James A. Garfield and said to him, "Here is a hymn for you... Your mountains [the Berkshires] were my inspiration. It must be sung to the music of Beethoven's 'Hymn to Joy.'" As you sing this hymn you will invariably see the magnificent Berkshire Mountains in your heart: "All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays, stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise."

From the studio of the Rev. William P. McLemore



[Visit our website](#)

[Join our mailing list](#)

Like us on Facebook!



Phone Number - 815-385-0390

Fax - 815385-3936

St. Paul's Email - stpaulmchenry@sbcglobal.net

The Rector's Email - lorilowe@stpaulmchenry.com

Quick Links

Diocese of Chicago
Episcopal News Service
Episcopal Cafe
Lectionary Calendar
Forward Day by Day

Vestry Minutes
June 2018

St Paul's Episcopal Church | 3706 W. Saint Paul Avenue, McHenry, IL 60050

[Unsubscribe {recipient's email}](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by stpaulmchenry@sbcglobal.net in collaboration with

