

TRINITY NEWS

Sunday after Ascension Prayer and Wisdom: The Waters of Siloam

Christopher Morley said: "If we discovered that we all had only five minutes left to say all that we wanted to say, then all the telephone sites would swiftly be crammed by people calling to other people to stammer that we love them." The devastation that we feel when love is lost tells us that this statement is a universal sentiment, even among those who are unkind and even cruel.

When we really love someone we have found an outer centre that realigns our sense of self. If any ideology is stronger than that love, then the mirror in which we see our soul is cracked. We cannot bear to look directly at our soul because it is full of unrecognized truths about ourselves. We have to look in a 'mirror' of some sort to see the person within. Sometimes the only 'mirror' is to hear the truth about ourselves from someone who really loves us.

Love is nurtured by trust, truth, and tenacity. Love that is just words is empty.

But we have to say the words. It is hard to say real words. That is, words that are shorn of pretence, caution, and the self-serving protection of ourselves. CS Lewis said that unless a complex statement could be explained in clear and simple words, then the person making the statement probably did not understand it either.

The word "university" means "unity in diversity". I have attended many universities, but I have rarely found wise people there. I didn't bring much wisdom myself! The exceptions have been those who poured the calming waters of Siloam over me. Cool and warm at the same time, without contradiction. The waters of wellness for the soul. Learning and wisdom meshed together, humility weaving the lines of learning to mesh with wisdom. Wisdom informing learning makes for great education! We may even learn to reverse the process! Now that might be a significant aspect of being made wise, something that we cannot do for ourselves in the first place. It brings unity to the diversity of all that enters our space and shreds our time up into its own little pieces every day.

Jesus longed for unity with God and humanity. The section (17:20-26) of the long prayer at John 17: 1-26 that is read today shows Jesus' passion to pray to his Abba in a way that included those standing with him. Such prayer links faith and trust in God with our emotional yearnings and helps us to avoid "moving among fragmentary ruins that have lost their significance" (Stephen Spender). This prayer of Jesus breathes his convictions and his trust in the source of his convictions: "Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me" (17:25). Christ took our humanity into God's nearer presence in the Ascension forty days after his resurrection. The conversation continues, and refreshment pours into our souls, shoring up faith and trust.

Bishop Arthur Jones

☞ Next week's readings: Acts 2:1-11; Psalm 104;
1 Corinthians 12:4-13; John 20:19-23

Your prayers are asked in our healing ministry for Diana Croyston, JPeter, Beryl Tanner, Ron Thoburn, Suzanne Jacobson, Ema Duhaylongsod, Ron Jacob, Merly Quiapos, Benjie Conzales, Loy Solasco, Ted Whale, Bonnie SyCip, Fidelia Matthews, Jovel Llagas, Carlyn-Fern Manning, Emerinciana Gatela, Amy Gonzales, Johnny Manning Jr, Janet Johnstone, Richard Kendall, Carrie Angus, Augusto Natividad, Susan Dalmas, Reuben Longid, Nikolai Gordevich, Avelina Collado, Gloria Domingo, Katsi Araneta, Sunny Cabanang.

TO NOTE:

May 17, Monday:

Finance Meeting, 5:30 pm.

Vestry Meeting, 6:30 pm, Camp Aguinaldo

May 18, Tuesday: Bible Study, 10am

May 20, Thursday:

Midweek Eucharist, 10am, Chapel.

Bible Study, 7pm, Rectory.

May 23, Sunday:

PENTECOST SUNDAY. PLEASE WEAR RED

Regular service 7:30 /9:30

Sunday School, 9:15am.

	Last Sunday	Year-to-date	Proportionate Budget	2010 Budget
Pledge	P116,700.00	P1,785,973.82	P1,425,000.00	P3,900,000.00
Loose Plate	P10,905.00	P355,772.85	P343,461.54	P940,000.00