

Trinity News

June 20, 2010

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Fourth Sunday after Pentecost + Psalm 63:1-8 and the Night Watches

John of the Cross wrote about the *Noche Oscura del Alma*, the Dark Night of the Soul. It is a pilgrimage through darkness trying to find the light. It is about the original pilgrimage, the journey of the soul. The first real glimpse into our being that designated us as human was the realisation that we are connected to the Spirit of God and to our personal historical journey.

Psalm 63 compares our thirst for these connections in words about being thirsty in a dry land, without water. Water a desert and plant a seed. Without water, living beings suffer.

The psalm writer leaves an epitaph: "So I have looked on you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and your glory" (63:3). To such a person, worship is about the vision of God and the glory of God in the sanctuary of the Temple and in the sanctuary of the soul. We cannot worship what we do not bring with us. We also need the Vision that lies before us and around us. When we are granted access to that mystery, then our destiny appears.

"Steadfast loving kindness" is the translation of one word in the Hebrew text, *hesed*. This love from God is described as "better than life". When we imitate it, we do a service to humanity that leaves reserves of goodness in other people's souls. We also are blessed. God loves each one of us, but the love that created us is deeper than life itself. "My lips will praise you". When we open our mouths in praise, self-praise is shut off for a little while. We cannot praise God and seek our own glory in the same moment.

I will lift up my hands (with palms upwards) says the psalmist. This never ceases in someone who loves God. It becomes part of our *nephesh*, our "life in the body". This is the closest that the Hebrew language gets to what we call "soul", and we translate it as "soul". I will "call on your name" says the psalmist. Eventually, the Rabbis and the Holy Ones called God simply, "The Name".

The psalmist then speaks of thinking of God at night, and meditating in the night watches. The psalmist says that his soul is 'satisfied', and that is a wonderful feeling, enriched by God and by life. Thomas Merton once wrote a beautiful piece called "Fire Watch". As a monk at a monastery in Kentucky he was assigned the duty of checking the buildings at night in the summer season when fires were flaring in the hills. We all find the night a comfort and a pleasant shutting down of light that occasionally troubles us when we are already restless and troubled. Some buildings are so inky black that I look for a sign of light. If there is none, I leave a light on! What about you? When we cannot sleep, then we can still pray and meditate with God in the "night watches". The field of dreams is open before us, and inner exploration goes on all the time according to the symbols that appear in our dreams. If you don't dream, write yourself a note that says, "I will dream tonight". Then it will happen.

You have a mission in the world and something that God is calling you to do today to enrich another life and your own. Write notes in journals about such callings and intentions and practise them!

Bishop Arthur Jones

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

	Last Sunday	Year-to-date	Proportionate Budget	2010 Budget
Pledge	P25,766.66	P1,986,690.34	P1,800,000	P3,900,000.00
Loose Plate	P16,536.00	P440,123.85	P433,846.15	P940,000.00

The church's monthly **Sources & Uses** report is available for viewing in the Church Office. Please look for Maricel For questions, feel free to email Edison at edisonyap@gmail.com

Next week's readings:

1 Kings 19:15-16,19-21; Psalm 16 ; Galatians 5:1,13-25; Luke 9:51-62

THIS WEEK:

Monday, June 21. Vestry Meeting, 6:30, Rectory.

Tuesday, 22.
Bible Study, 10am

Thursday, June 24.

Midweek Eucharist,
9:00am***

Sunday, June 27.

Regular Eucharist, 7:30 & 9:30

*****new time schedule**