

# TRINITY NEWS

January 23, 2011

## **EPIPHANY III TRAILING CLOUDS OF GLORY DO WE COME FROM GOD, WHO IS OUR HOME**

All that is true, all that is good and holy, all that is lovely to look at and beautiful to hear, all that has virtue and all that deserves praise: Let this be the content of your thinking – Paraphrase of Philippians 4:8 by Stephanie Dowrick

I, God, am in your midst. Whoever knows me can never fail. Not in the heights. Nor in the depths. Nor in the breadths. For I am love. Which the vast expanse of ignorance will never still - Hildegarde of Bingen

Our birth is but a sleep and a forgetting: the Soul that rises with us, our life's Star, hath had elsewhere its setting, and cometh from afar. Not in entire forgetfulness and not in utter nakedness but trailing clouds of glory do we come, from God, who is our home - William Wordsworth.

O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know me when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it - Psalm 139: 1-5.

The contemporary loneliness of life without God which troubles so many people has no easy solutions. We cannot give people experience, and we cannot give them awareness. I have connections with Monash University in Australia. When I visited their library recently I noticed that the religious section had quite a number of books on atheism. It even included a book with the title Science Proves That There is no God. God as an hypothesis, and science deals in hypotheses, is neither provable nor disprovable. Atheism may even become a new religion! Sensing the presence of God requires both awareness and focus. We may even require a heightened awareness and a sharper focus to sense the presence of God now than in former times. The structures in which we housed our belief-constructs about God have tended to fall down. Christianity is drifting towards the same problem that the Jews had when their Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans. The real temple for us has always been Christ himself. The Jews had to look at afresh at their faith in order to survive and indeed overcome what would happen to them in the centuries ahead after the destruction of the temple in A.D. 70. They had to look elsewhere for the visible focus of their belief in the Unseen God. The Scriptures and the Creeds and the Liturgies are essential to our expression of the Christian faith. But this is not enough now without a heightened awareness of the presence of God and an intentional focus that seeks to enter and maintain a relationship with God every day of our lives. Otherwise we will drift into a sloppy liberalism where we lose our identity in a sea of competing faiths or we resort to fundamentalism with all its incidental cruelties and all its papering over of the complexities and richness and hidden aspects of the Christ life. The Sermon on the Mount of in Matthew ends with the story of the house built on a rock. Luke's version of that story has the builder of the house dig into the rock and lay a foundation on it. As Paul reminds us, the spiritual foundation of our faith is Christ, and it is by deepening our relationship with him that we become more aware of the presence of God. The reality of our faith becomes more apparent when we are caught up into the presence of God. It is not tangible, but it is more real than the tangible.

**Bishop Arthur Jones**

**TO PLAN:**

MONDAY, Jan. 24.

- Finance Meeting, 5:30pm, Parish Office
- Vestry Meeting, 6:30pm, Rectory

TUESDAY, Jan. 25.

- Bible Study, 10am

THURSDAY, Jan. 27

- Midweek Eucharist, 10am

**Next week's readings:**

Micah 6:1-8

Psalm 15

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12

Your prayers are asked in our healing ministry for Diana Croyston, JPeter, Beryl Tanner, Douglas Tanner, Ron Thoburn, Suzanne Jacobson, Cena Quiapos, Ron Jacob, Bonnie SyCip, Fidelia Matthews, Jovel Llagas, Ted Whale, Ema Duhaylongsod, Emerinciana Gatela, Amy Gonzales, Carrie Angus, Augusto Natividad, Avelina Collado, Eric Williamson, Susan Dalmas, Sunny Cabanang, Jaqueline Acquiatan, Valerie Jones, Carlyn-Fern Manning, Richard Kendall, Johnny Manning Jr, Gloria Domingo, Fr. Barry Cumberland, Katsi Araneta, Emilie Nauntofte, Marian Kermanshahchi, Rosaline Soulsby, Divinagracia Benitez, Les Vye-Parminter, Wilson Teh, Rey del Rosario, Jose Songco, Gitte Volk, Cecile Gutierrez, Frances Krook, Rolando Bautista, Gabrielle Gifford, Nancy King.

[NOTE: Sick list to be updated next month. Please re-submit names.]