

TRINITY NEWS

Pentecost 22 Remembrance Sunday

Today we honour prophets and visionaries and those caught up in the conflicts of humanity.

Prophets can only speak in symbols. They may enter the concrete experiences of life and be quite scathing about the lack of principle that very evident to them. But, they will soon break out in symbols because what the prophet speaks is a word-packed symbol. It is a word that hangs in the air, and it contains the integrity of the person who speaks and the symbols and deeds of the person. This is a triad that cannot be broken or the prophet no longer speaks the word of the Lord.

Light and darkness appear in apocalyptic discourse, and this colours the vision of the prophet. The sons of light fight against sons of darkness according to the War Scroll from Qumran. Hidden in the desert to escape the tumult of life in the cities and towns, they found war in themselves. It is like us not listening to the inevitably bad news! The Romans did not leave them at peace. Humanity seems to be more prone to war than to peace. It is a war that goes on inside us because it is a war waged by every person on earth. It comes at different levels: Fractures in our psyche, separation, divorce, death, destruction, and violent reactions to differences of culture and speech.

But adversity and oppression also bring out the best in us when we walk with someone who has a common aim and sense of collective destiny. That is, someone who is not afraid to speak and act on their convictions, even if they are a little afraid deep down of perhaps dying for it. Christ says of himself and the martyrs in every age of whatever conviction, "Greater love has no man than this, that he should lay down his life for his friends (John 15:13).

Love is prepared to sacrifice life, the most precious gift of all. Jesus died on the Cross in a cosmic drama between light and darkness, between goodness and evil, between what is transitory and what is lasting, what is negative and all that lights up the human soul and fills the universe with the glory of God. The sacrificial love of the Cross haunts the life and death reflections of humanity and it never goes away. It is the model of sacrificial love because God sends the heart of a Son. It has left in our psyche and in our sight a visual model of what sacrificial love is really all about.

Whether it be a mother devastated by the loss of a child, a father running into a burning house to save a child, or Mother Teresa bending over a stinking body with fading eyes in Kolkata, a man diving into a raging sea to rescue a stranger - all these are reflections of the deepest model of sacrificial love ever given to humanity: Christ hanging on the Cross at Calvary.

Bishop Arthur Jones

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

**Ezekiel 34:11-17; Psalm 95;
1 Corinthians 15:20-28; Matthew 25:31-46**

THIS WEEK:

Nov. 15, Tuesday.

- Bible Study, 10am
- Group Discussion @ the Tuttons (#3 Sta. Potenciana, Urdaneta Village), 7:30pm

Nov. 17, Thursday.

- Midweek Eucharist, 10am, Chapel

TO PLAN:

Nov. 20

- Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service, 7:30pm.

Nov. 21, Monday.

- Vestry Meeting, 6:30pm.