

Trinity News

Pentecost XXI Touching Soul and Spirit

“Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the one to whom we must render an account” (Hebrews 4:12-13).

“Soul” is the deepest constituent of our being. Spirit with a small ‘s’ describes our human spirit. The words of Scripture test our human spirit and our aspirations, and they also point to ‘soul’ as a locus in our identity that Holy Spirit comes to touch and shape. The revealing of our soul is the deepest human exploration. It is an unknown world, connected like our unconscious to the origins of the universe and to the Creator.

The soul bears the image of God and it has a yearning to be influenced by the Spirit of God. The words of Scripture touch on the matters of the soul, particularly in the teaching of Jesus. His parables are about the human soul laid bare before God.

Judging the thoughts and intentions of the heart in others is prohibited by Christ. But the still small voice articulates what we cannot define. The Scriptures contain the insights of God about the thoughts and intentions of the heart. The Bible tells us more than we can bear. We are like Christ naked at the cross. Everyone looks, but no one understands. Even those who love us and give their lives to protect us do not fully know us. But they are one of our few hopes in the world and we will treasure them forever. Love alone remains with the God of love. His imposters are everywhere and his true disciples struggle to be heard in the din of competing humanity. It was so with the Master and his end was predictable. But words that search us out have been bequeathed by him. We inherit riches and we bury them under the mess of our unfulfilled aspirations. We also let our dreams be manipulated by others. The “man for others” as Bonhoeffer called him, still comes stepping silently, persistently. We go away from our best intentions. The Spirit of Jesus always comes looking for them.

Touching Soul and Spirit

I am a soul aeons into my unconscious
I am a human spirit for a lifetime
I struggle between peace and disturbance
I look for eternity and what is, tasting frailty.

I visualise grace and beauty for everyone
Some beauty entrances, some grace pours balm
Meeting others a daily adventure; losing them, grief.
Doors open, windows close, light pledges relief. **AJ**

Bishop Arthur Jones

THIS WEEK:

Monday, Oct. 22

- Finance meeting, 5:30pm
- Vestry meeting, 6:30pm, Rectory.

Tuesday, Oct. 23

- Bible Study, 10am

Thursday, Oct. 25

- Midweek Eucharist, 10am, Chapel

Friday, Oct. 26.

- **Regular non-working holiday.**
Office closed.



NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Isaiah 59:9-19

Psalm 13

Hebrews 5:12-6:1,9-12

Mark 10:46-52