

# TRINITY NEWS

## Pentecost 25 The Charisma of Joy

You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand - Psalm 16:11

We can create pleasures but we cannot create joy. Joy, love, and compassion are true signs of spirituality. Indeed without them one would wonder whether it is spirituality at all. The path of life is sought by all those who treat their life as a pilgrimage and go looking for something that is greater than themselves. We are all looking for something that enhances our sense of being and makes us feel that we have a place in the world that is fulfilling, enabling us to make a difference. Spirituality that leads to violence is fraudulent. Spirituality that evokes joy and makes people feel that they can sing and dance and run free in the world is really doing its job.

Joy is grief turned inside out as someone said. Go to a funeral and is it happy? Why is a clown someone who makes other people laugh and yet sometimes has the saddest face in the circus? Why do people break out into laughter when they attend a wake after a funeral when they have been crying at it? Is it because remembrance sparks other happy memories and humours the heart so that people feel good about themselves.

Humour has no time  
the present in a way

barriers and it has the capacity to bring the past into  
that diminishes our fears of the future.

Some of us were nurtured on wit. Wit comes to the surface? Wit laced with sarcasm can take our heads off and diminish our spirit. But humour creates laughter and it breaks open the emotions of the heart so that people feel good about themselves. Comes a religious article that says that God is without body, parts or passions. A creative scholar called Jurgen Moltmann wrote a book called The Crucified God. Luther's emblem has a black cross on the heart of God. Moltmann followed that symbolism by observing that the Cross of Christ displays the very passions of God that had been denied by the doctrinal experts.

There is great feeling at the Cross, particularly in the statement "My God my God why have you forsaken me?" It is also there in the anguish of Christ when in poignant words he commends his soul into God's hands. The letter to the Hebrews, which reflects deeply on the humanity of Christ, says that "for the joy that was set before him he endured the cross despising the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God". What is the joy that is described here? It is not the pure joy of seeing a child take its first step. It is not the unadulterated joy of hearing a piece of music so utterly beautiful that it haunts our souls and brings tears to our eyes. It is rather the

joy of someone who has looked down the path of life and discovered joy. That is, in seeing something on the path that is indescribably beautiful and life-giving, even in the midst of pain and suffering. C.S. Lewis wrote a book once called *Surprised by Joy*. Clive Staples Lewis met up with Joy Davidman and she and the confirmed bachelor linked their souls in marriage. He found more joy with her than he had ever dreamed of when he was confronted a blank page and then applied one of the most creative pens of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. She got cancer and he prayed that her pain might come to him and it was so. Shared joy became shared pain. Between joy and pain there is something called sacrificial love. Sacrificial love is one of the motivational springs of joy. Joy happens and it defies analysis because it authenticates itself.

Bishop Arthur Jones

---

### **THIS WEEK:**

#### ***Monday.***

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

#### ***Tuesday.***

- Bible Study, 10am.
- Group Discussion @ the Tutton's, 7:30pm.

#### ***Thursday.***

- Midweek Eucharist, 10am, Chapel



### **NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:**

Daniel 7:9-14

Psalm 93

Revelation 1:1-8

John 18:33-37 *or* Mark 11:1-11



### **REMINDER:**

**Family Fun Festival**  
Saturday, November 24  
9:00am-3:00pm

### **CHRISTMAS PAGEANT.**

Performance on 24th December (Monday), 4:00pm. Open to all ages. A sign-up paper is posted on the board for those who wish to participate.

### **Rehearsal schedule:**

Nov. 24 @ 3:00pm

*(after the FFF)*

Dec. 1, 8, 15 & 22 @ 11:00am