

# TRINITY NEWS

## Last Sunday after Pentecost. What is Truth?

“My Kingdom is not of this world”, says Jesus to Pilate. This is an ownership statement unfamiliar to us in Jesus’ proclamations about the Reign of God. It may be related to the words in Luke 17:21, “The Kingdom of God is within you”.

The reign of God, the unfolding of the majesty of God in the world, flows from within Jesus in his proclamation of it. It flows into those who believe his words about it.

Pilate can only think of earthly kingdoms, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world; to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice”. Pilate answered him, “What is truth?” If Jesus gave a response we do not have it. We ourselves are left to answer the question.

“The truth is a million times better than believing in a lie” (Ruiz).

The highest point on the human journey is to see the truth about ourselves; and to believe it without any reservations or self-judgement. Jesus came “to testify to the truth”. He saw the truth in himself and at the same time he saw the truth in God.

The Master said, “You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” (John 8:32).

Truth is never entirely abstract for a Christian. It is personal to us because Christ testifies within us through the Spirit. He continues to bear witness to the truth. When we finally see the truth within us, then we are close to the kingdom. Heaven can be reached on earth, and it is a place of freedom.

Ruiz suggests four agreements we can make with ourselves:

1. Be impeccable in our word/ message, in all our speech. “Impeccable” means “without fault or sin” in this context.
2. Don’t take anything personally. The other person only knows your story from a secondary point of view. Only you know your own story and that requires “seeing the truth” with clear eyes.

3. Don't make assumptions. Ruiz says, "Making assumptions and then taking them personally is the beginning of hell in this world". Most of our assumptions about others are usually unfounded. Only they know their own story.
4. Always do your best. "It's the practice that will make the difference" (Ruiz). I would say, this is something we all can put into practice. Our actions are the practical face of the truth in us. Our actions are the most authentic voice of our inner truth and the clearest approval of our words for others.

"Imagine living without judgement, without blame, without guilt, without shame. Imagine living your life without trying to please other people's point of view, and not even your own point of view according to your own book of law. Imagine living with this kind of freedom. Yes, the truth will set you free, but first you need to *see* the truth." *Ruiz R. and J. The Fifth Agreement.*

**Bishop Arthur Jones**

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### **THIS WEEK:**

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

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

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

- Midweek Eucharist, 10am, Chapel

#### ***Friday.***

- Non working holiday. OFFICE CLOSED.

### **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:**

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



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

Zechariah 14:4-9

Psalm 50

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Luke 21:25-31

### **TO PLAN: DECEMBER 9.**

One (1) Eucharist only, 9:00a.m.