

TRINITY NEWS

Pentecost 15

Hebrews 13:1-8 is a resonant passage. It speaks of giving hospitality to strangers. Robert Frost has a beautiful poem about a newly married couple finally closing the door after the celebrations and turning to each other. Snow had been falling and now it got heavier. Just as they felt the entrancing warmth of a sacred loving embrace, someone knocked at the door seeking shelter for the night. They looked at each other as the groom turned back from the door to console his heart-partner.

“Mutual love” is not easy to find or to hold but it is embedded in the teachings of Christ.

Mutual love goes beyond ordinary bounds. The writer asks his readers to feel with people in prison and with those who are being tortured. This may be a reference to those suffering for the Christian Faith who were known to them. But the early followers of Christ wanted to make all sorts of applications of the principles of mutual love that abounded in Jesus’ teaching.

Boundaries can be good, but they can be a prison. When we justify torture we speak with a forked tongue. When we identify with people’s pain their anonymity fades away.

The writer reminds them from the Tanach that God has said that he will not leave us or forsake us.

That is hard to remember if we feel forsaken and desperately alone. I grew up in the night silence of the Bush, broken by a Kookaburra in the morning. The name says something about their joyous and raucous kooka kooka kooka. Silence is wonderful before God, but it can suddenly be infused with loneliness. Sometimes we need companionship with someone who makes us feel good and glad to be alive. When such a person also responds to us, that is bliss!

The star words in the text we often quote: "Jesus us the same yesterday, today and forever."

Yes, but our perception of this human face of God does change.

As a child I knew Christ. Now I am more aware that he knows me.

It is like handling the stranger at the door in Frost's poem. How will we handle Yeshua when we let him in? What limitations will it place on us?

This is a choice that is always knocking at the door when we let someone into our heart. When we let God in, the for-rent sign is gone.

Bishop Arthur Jones

THIS WEEK:

Wednesday. Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Thursday. Midweek Eucharist, 10 a.m.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: (PROPER 18)

Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 1

Philemon 1-20; Luke 14:25-33

UPCOMING EVENTS:

SEPTEMBER 29TH-9:00 A.M.

JOINT SERVICE & LUNCH. OCTOBER 20TH. HARVEST SUNDAY.

NOTES FROM THE VESTRY MEETING. August 27th.

1. The vestry affirmed our support for Palawan Deanery and Payong, Antipolo.
2. An initial grant was made towards the cost of Fr. Gerry Cabije's foot amputation.
3. Deacon Melvin's work with our young people was encouraged.
4. Vestry approved guidelines for donations for the use of our facilities.
5. The Rector affirmed the vestry's handling of our resources and commended the