

TRINITY NEWS

Pentecost 23 The Only Source of Complete Healing

No one ever became wise by chance

- Seneca.

Prince George was baptized this week and the Archbishop of Canterbury hoped it might stimulate the flagging baptismal numbers of the Church of England.

Archbishop Ramsey said that the most visible proof of the resurrection is the assembly of the Church throughout the world on the Lord's Day.

The Gospels are an attempt to imitate the Christ. Without them we would know very little about him.

Everything that he is reported to have said in the Gospels can be said in two hours. He never travelled like Paul. He did not go farther than 90 miles from his home town in Galilee.

Jesus used stories to get to get his message across. Grace and truth came through Jesus Christ says the writer of the Fourth Gospel. Grace cannot be earned says the preacher over and over. True, but we never stop trying to earn it.

The relationship with Christ is the key to understanding Christianity. Relationships are the key to life, to state the obvious.

Christ brought a new mode of being God in human skin yet he remained vulnerable as a human being. The combination is incomprehensible and yet it makes sense of everything. Identity: the human preoccupation.

When Jews looked through the haze of a campfire at night, what did he see? What vision of himself carried across the fire to the dark wall of the surrounding trees?

We all have to deal with two things: Who we are and what we believe.

They are inseparable for everyone, but for us they are indissoluble, The model for this is their inseparable connection in Christ himself. Who he was and what he believed were as closely linked in him as his connection with God. It is so with us. It is a triad of interior and exterior connections that affects our total person in all that we do. There is no evading it.

Jesus used the role of a prophet to convey his messianic yearnings, linked to inner person (nephesh) with his words and symbols/deeds. It is a triple unity to describe an integrated person whose personality is transparent and convincing. It is hard to find adequate words to describe it. I still cannot find the words. I suspect that it is like trying to say why you are in love with one person and not another.

I am fascinated by the inner core of all the great religions but I become an adherent of only one of them. I am as much a Christian as I am myself. I have never thought to be anywhere else, though I am accepting of those who feel such needs.

It takes a singular devotion to draw closer to Christ. He does not yield up his treasures easily. He is closer than breathing and yet lost to us in the eternal silence God. He is a vulnerable human being, a real person. This is one of the central teachings about him in New Testament. The letter to the Hebrews in particular uses his historical name *Yeshua* as a description of someone who cries out to God and achieves perfection through what he has suffered. His teaching, especially in the Sermon on the Mount and the Upper Room Discourses in John 14-16, tell us more about how to lead a *Yekara* life than about the nature of God. That is, “to reflect the glory of God in human conduct.” His two greatest parables, that of the Lost Son and the Good Samaritan, tell us about the love and compassion of God, but even more about how to live as a compassionate loving human integrated into God and humanity. That is, displaying an integrated life binding body mind and spirit in the communal experience of being human.

Yet the mystery remains, He wears the mystery of the shroud of his conception at Nazareth, not just the last recall proposed by the proponents of the shroud of Turin.

His conception is enshrouded in mystery. This is not to satisfy doctrines about the Word being made flesh but to see him in the robe of the eternal mystery of God.

The Virginal Conception of Jesus of Nazareth is not about setting aside the rules of the universe placed there by God the Creator and then steadily unravelled by science.

Christianity in its essence is no more anti-scientific than an atheistic or believing scientist. Its focus is on a mystery that defies rational explanation at its crucial points. It requires the maximum concentration of mental energy, not a reduction of it to suit preconceived ideas. **Ultimately, Christianity depends on the capacity of the mystery of Christ to reveal its own self-authenticating rationale of Being as Divine and yet touching humanity through Christ.**

Bishop Arthur Jones

THIS WEEK:

Oct. 29 (Tuesday).

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

Oct. 30 (Wednesday).

- Bible Study, 10:00am.

Nov. 1 (Friday). Non working holiday.

- All Saints' Day Eucharist, 10am, Chapel. [Our dearly departed will be remembered on this day].

COMING UP:

November 10.

- Holy Eucharist (7:30am)
- Remembrance Sunday (9:30 service)

November 17.

- Holy Eucharist (7:30am)
- NCCP Sunday (9:30 service)

November 24. Christ the King.

- Stewardship Sunday (7:30 & 9:30)
- Joint Ecumenical Thanksgiving service @ Union Church Manila, 6:30pm.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Isaiah 1:10-20

Psalm 32: 2

Thessalonians 1:1-5, 11-12

Luke 19:1-10



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT:

Christmas is fast approaching and with that comes our Annual Christmas Pageant. Children & teens are welcome to participate. A sign up form is posted on the board by the Parish Office. Rehearsals will start on **Nov. 16** and every weekend thereafter until 24th December.