

TRINITY NEWS

Epiphany III Following the Universal Pilgrim on our Pilgrimage

Psalm 139:20 Search me O God and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any hurtful way in me, and lead me to the way everlasting.

The searching of God begins with the heart, and passes through the mind and then encompasses all of our being. There is no searching without testing. That testing leads to God's intimate knowledge of our thoughts. Then it enters the whole range of our emotional and motivational feeling and thinking. The word for "hurtful" means in this context surely not only the hurts we inflict on others but on ourselves. The love of God and neighbour leads to a more lasting respect for ourselves.

This Psalm acknowledges the will of God to love us and to search the depths of our soul. God's love and God's will are inseparable. There is no way of separating them. Will and love are two aspects of truth in God according to the Scriptures. Love illuminates knowledge and God's will gives content and direction to love. God's will is the script for real love. Love without purpose has lost its way in the darkness of non-will. Non-will is the suicide of destiny and purpose in the world.

This text makes it clear that we cannot escape the loving search for the heart of humanity by God. There is no way that we can escape Being. The "way of everlasting life" is the way of God. It is a long road to what Jung called individuation. But individuation needs the corporate society of God's enfolding love. Unless it is shrouded in the mystery of God it loses its own mystery of being human.

The light of God opens up humans like the sun opens up flowers on a spring morning. We then subside into ourselves until we are called into openness again by the luminous presence of God in the truest aspects of our humanity. This is our journey into life, opening and subsiding. What is this way of God in what is meant by "way everlasting"?

There is no decay in God and no death. God is the deathless one, the sustainer of identity and the way to find perpetuation of our life and identity. Eternal life is either about identity or it is a formless void. It preserves the human identity of Christ. It holds it together like a jigsaw put together and then glued in every joint to solidify its picture-identity. The Gospels are books of pictures drawn in words about Jesus life and teaching.

What is the content of our history in the configuration of being the persons that we are? What is the secret to being truly human as Christ was and is? Can one be truly human and be an eternal spirit in God? What are the ultimate questions, after all is said and done? “I cannot forget about myself even when I am asleep” – Kierkegaard.

The splendour of God reveals the darkness of humanity. The glory of God reveals our lack of radiance. Light reveals light but it also casts shadows. There is a rub in all of this and we are hard smitten to reveal it. We feel it very much, but we cannot describe it in precise terms.

One of the most powerful teachings of Jesus of Nazareth is non-resistance. He did not resist arrest that he did not defend himself at his trial except to make an enigmatic comment or two that puzzled his hearers and infuriated his opponents even more. Turning the other cheek to make sure that ritual uncleanness and insult was implied and rejected, and giving away a cloak to someone when one is probably in need oneself, and refusing to let his people defend him against those who threatened him is only part of a wide range of his teaching that emphasises non-resistance. When we stop resisting we desist from setting up a negative field that enters the perceptive field of the other person. It is actually a great strategy for engagement rather than retreat from reality. I have not met a complete pacifist. We would all defend our own flesh and blood against any attacker. But we are not on earth just for self preservation. We are here to redeem humanity in a resurrected world that is not our ultimate home. But the sun shines and the rain falls, and we cling to blue skies and shining grass and love in the face of a child, painting them over and over to remember and retain them over and over. This is our pilgrimage as individuals and as a faith community at Holy Trinity.

Bishop Arthur Jones

THIS WEEK:

Monday, January 27th

- Vestry organizational meeting, 6:30pm, Rectory.

Wednesday, January 29th

- Bible Study, 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, January 30th

- Midweek Eucharist, 10:00 a.m., Chapel

Friday, January 31st.

- **NON WORKING HOLIDAY.** Office closed.

TO PLAN:

- March 4, Shrove Tuesday/
Pancake Supper.
- March 5, Ash Wednesday.

Readings for next Sunday:

Malachi 3:1-4; Psalm 84
Hebrews 2:14-18
Luke 2:22-40