

# TRINITY NEWS

## **Pentecost IV The Fourth Voice: Awareness**

The spirituality of the 21<sup>st</sup> century had already been prefigured in the last half of the twentieth century. That is, a move away from rigid religious requirements to a fresh alignment. This move sought to reconnect afresh the inner world of every person with the outer forms of religion such as the Scriptures and worship of various kinds. The life-enhancing aspects of the Scriptures became more important than biblical prohibitions and their often negative and judgmental consequences. The Church sometimes mistook the glory of God in it for its own glory. Those who loved the Scriptures sometimes mistook the Scriptures for God. The Church is not the Reign of God on earth and the Scriptures are not God in words.

But without the Gospels we would know virtually nothing of Jesus except for a few comments from ancient Jewish and Roman writers. Without the Church we would not have the continuation of the nurture, preservation and handing of the documents we call the Scriptures.

The Qahal, the Assembly of Israel, collected and passed on documents that became sacred, and so did the Church.

We have been both driven and led in the 21<sup>st</sup> century to dig deeper into the priceless literary and collective consciousness of our spiritual lineage. We need the Scriptures to support our central teachings about the Christ. But we also need them to dig deeper into our own souls.

We ‘present’ ourselves everyday to a mirror and to every person we meet. But whirling inside us is a vast conglomerate of thoughts, emotions and instinctual responses. The universe inside us expands every day. But only the wise and the perceptive can see it. We are a visible and an invisible world in ourselves. **There is more hidden inside us than what is known outside.**

The threefold structure of the brain has three voices: thoughts/reflections, feelings/emotions, and instincts. But the three combine in our unique capacity to have **total awareness**. That is not to say that we have it, but we can have it. **Awareness** is a key indicator of our human uniqueness in creation. A wide-eyed deer poised for flight follows instinctual prompts. We are poised for flight because we know a whole lot more. We crossed the “Threshold of Reflection” and became historically aware beings.

Awareness can connect the first sliver of water spouting life at creation with the perception of a wise woman at Nazareth that new life had come to her from God. It can link a voice crying out at Calvary resounding in the heart of God that draws the response of a Breath of Spirit that raised Jesus and burst the seal of his tomb.

We call it the total Awareness the **Fourth Voice** after thought and reflection, emotion and feelings, instincts and reactions.

This Fourth Voice of Awareness makes us more conscious of the Still Small Voice.

It makes us want to listen and set our minds on the vehicle of that voice, the Holy Spirit. Thought and emotion and the instinct to know God can be drawn into an awareness that cracks open the shells of our pretensions and our concealment of the truth about ourselves.

Jesus taught love of God and love of neighbor and oneself as a unity. "God's love has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. (Romans 5:5)

Discernment of the Fourth Voice has only one test. Is it really a voice of love? Love means enhancement. Love means life. Love means concern for the other. Love means peace. Love means humility. Work out your own checklist. Discernment of the Fourth Voice leads us to "**re-discover a more complete life as Abba intended**". This is a paraphrase of Matthew 5:48, "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

Bishop Arthur Jones

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## **THIS WEEK:**

### **July 9, Wednesday.**

- Bible Study, 10:00am
- Discussion Group, 7:30pm, Parish Office.

### **July 10, Thursday.**

- Midweek Eucharist, 10:00am, Chapel

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

*Isaiah 55:1-5,10-13 ; Psalm 65; Romans 8:9-17; Matthew 13:1-9,18-23*

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