

# Trinity News

## Pentecost 22 Elusive Justice and Precarious Peace

**T**he set passage from Amos 5: 18-24 concludes with an endless dream in Palestine and in the world: “But let justice roll down like water, and righteousness like an overflowing stream” (5:24).

This follows Amos’ rejection of the assemblies of Israel and their festivals and psalm singing and sacrificial offerings. There are not rejected out of hand, but in comparison with the need for justice and righteousness flowing like a pure and unobstructed stream.

Amos utters words that echo through the corridors of history. They cry out for justice and true righteousness in the world of human affairs.

“Justice” for Amos has its roots in right human conduct before a righteous God whose character reflects and indeed must reflect an unswerving clarity of moral and ethical justice. The prophets of Israel called their nation back to what is encapsulated in the Ten Commandments. They didn’t recite them. They applied them like the messianic prophet Jesus would do centuries later to all the affairs of his people. That is the Torah, the “divine instruction” drawn from law and tested in daily experience. “Justice” cannot be prattled in empty words to satisfy the needs of power brokers. It has to become real in the experience of the people.

There can be no justice where and when human dignity and freedom are suppressed; where lies and manipulation become accepted practice; where corruption is touted as honesty, and where elected officials place themselves above the law. There can be no justice or holiness where religious freedom is suppressed by brutal repression. The world-wide emancipation of women and the protection of children through sound education and nurture will not be stopped by fanatics.

Humanity must converge in pursuing fundamental freedoms, not by execution or brutal suppression aimed at an insanely controlled conformity.

God weeps and humanity raves. The slaughtered dead are silent, their dreams lost forever. The raped and the tortured try to retrieve their mutilated lives. Prisoners of conscience like caged birds gaze at a world

that no longer belongs to them. Wars “to end all wars” have been won and lost. Religions surge and fade. Those we cannot bear to lose still leave us.

We can only trust like Amos did in the God of love and justice who will not be denied. We retain realistic hope in the best of humanity despite its worst. We honour those who keep this dream alive and hold aloft the torch of liberty for all.

Bishop Arthur Jones

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## **THIS WEEK:**

### *Wednesday, November 12.*

- Bible study, 10:00am
- Group discussion, 7:30pm, Parish office

### *Thursday, November 13.*

- Midweek Eucharist, 10:00am, Chapel

## **NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS:**

Zephaniah 1:7,12-18; Psalm 90  
I Thessalonians 5:1-10  
Matthew 25:14-15,19-29

## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

### *November 16.*

- *Stewardship Sunday (both services)*


### *November 23.*

- *NCCP Sunday, 9:30am*
- *Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service & Dinner, 7:30pm*

## **PLATE OFFERINGS:**

Please consider handing in any large cash offerings on Sundays to the office. A receipt will be given.

-The Rector

he Rt. Rev. Renato Abibico shall be installed as the 5th Prime Bishop of the Episcopal Church in the Philippines on Thursday, **20th November 2014, 9:00am** at the **Cathedral of St. Mary & St. John, 277 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City.** Everybody is sincerely invited to grace this occasion.