

TRINITY NEWS

Epiphany 2 Revelation and Celebration John 2: 1-11.

Jesus came to a wedding in Cana of Galilee. It may have been a family affair involving relatives since the mother of Jesus has the primary invitation. He also is invited with some of his disciples. It is a glimpse into his family affairs in Galilee and a glimpse at his underlying identity.

The issue of the story is a deeper recognition of the prophet in Galilee. It would always be home to him. Richard Swinburne and others have spoken of a miracle as an event breaking into the normal structure of creation. But the real essence of a miracle in the Gospels is to enter a 'space' which requires transformation before filling it with a creative presence of Holy Spirit to effect what is needed there. It still defers to the rational processes of creation and the logic of creation. The end result is still part of the order of creation. It is a coming together of a perceived need with the response of the Creator Spirit.

The Participants needed some wine for the festivities. It is the mother of Jesus who tells him that the wine is lacking. He is taken aback that she is making this request of him even though he does have innate perception and knows what's going on with his mother. How they related to each other is not brought out in the Scriptures except in a few cryptic statements about them. It is the lot of every mother to be wounded because of what happens to her child, in this case her son. She may have been wounded by the abruptness of the way in which Jesus speaks to her about her request. The commentators have tried to make it more palatable, but it's a bit jarring in some way. The emptiness of the purification jars capable of holding about thirty gallons of water is a symbolic reminder, and there are plenty of them in the Last Gospel.

The emptiness that we all know in our 'hearts' at times, a sinking feeling of disorientation, is a mark of the Creation stories in Genesis. The Spirit of God hovers over the waters, the earthy is "astonishingly empty" and the Creator fills it with new life to refresh it. It is like that for all of us.

There is an eternal breakthrough moment at Cana of Galilee when after the servants fill the water pots at Jesus' command there is a change of liquid and the water becomes rich and flowing wine. This is the Creator effecting change, facilitated by the Christ himself. He is an agent of creation and as such his nature miracles are aligned to the first creation. He gives the command to fill up the empty jars with water and the comment is that "they filled them up to the brim," emphasizing the magnitude of what is happening. We are not told that Jesus waved his hands over the water, no incantation about changing the water into wine. The creator does not undo what he did at creation at anyone's behest.

Afterwards the merriment continues and they enjoy the "best" wine.

Rabbi Ben Ezra

BY ROBERT BROWNING

Grow old along with me!

The best is yet to be,

The last of life, for which the first was made:

Our times are in His hand

Who saith "A whole I planned,

Youth shows but half; trust God: see all, nor be afraid!"

Amen!

Bishop Arthur Jones

THIS WEEK:

Monday.

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

Wednesday.

- Group Discussion, 7:30p.m., Parish Office

Thursday.

- Midweek Eucharist, 10am, Chapel

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS:

Nehemiah 8:2-10; Psalm 113; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Luke 4:14-21

TO PLAN: AGM: January 31st after the 9:30 service
