

# TRINITY NEWS

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## **Lent II The Elusive Yet Persistent 'Face' of God.**

The Psalms were inherited from the Jews and they were the first Song Book and Prayer book of the Christian Church.

Psalms 27 is a great Psalm and it stands out in the readings for today. It begins with some of the most affirmative words in Scripture:

**The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?  
The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?  
(Ps. 27:1).**

This can only be said by someone who has contemplated God and let everything go in fearless trust and unreserved, dauntless love. We can only receive everything from God when we give everything to God. This paradox is central to the Christian contemplation of God, and indeed to any contemplation of God.

When we are facing serious surgery we feel that we will for a while "be blotted out of the land of the living". When a beloved man known to us was to be operated on for a diseased kidney, he said, "If I wake up amongst my loved ones that will be great; if I wake up in God's place that too will be fine." The words may not be verbatim, but the sentiments are correct. They imply fearless trust. Let us reflect on some parts of the beautiful prayer that follows in the Psalm:

**"Harken to my voice when I call; have mercy on me and answer me. You speak in my heart and say, "seek my face"; Your face, Lord will I seek.**

This is the voice of someone who has heard the soft whisper of the Spirit as Jesus did at the Jordan when he was baptized. If God did not seek us, we could not find Abba. We respond to what the Spirit engraves on our hearts. This 'sound track' has no words, but it is not voiceless. It draws us into a vast world of pulsing life in which God can do anything.

**“To move into that realm is the greatest adventure. It is to be open to the Infinite and hence to infinite possibilities. Our private, self-made worlds come to an end; a new world appears within and around us and the impossible becomes an everyday experience”**(Thomas Keating). This is where the contemplation of God leads us. Such utter dependence, whilst still being hugely responsible for our actions, seems to ‘connect’ with variants in the configurations of God’s dealings with us that are unthinkable and unexplainable in our daily bombardments of this-worldly concerns and frustrations. The person whom we trust who has betrayed us; the cynical condescension of some atheists towards deeply spiritual people; the spiteful narrowness and of some religious people, mitigated by those who love God and show open-handed love as Jesus did so courageously. The list of killjoys is long, tedious and scary. We may add the incredible cruelty towards women and children by predators and rapists. We observe these things and many others and they diminish us. This is only a small segment of the life-diminishing forces that assail us every day.

For now we see in an enigmatic mirror, but then face to face (with God). For now I know only in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known (I Corinthians 13:12).

*This is a beautiful description of the spiritual Journey into the luminous love of God that flows through I Corinthians 13.*

Abiding Love is the ultimate goal. AGAPE love, “love without boundaries”, contains the clues to the inner heart of God and human life. We can do it all in life and yet know nothing if we do not stumble into the abyss of love. In the freefall that ensues we do not need the Devil’s promise, based on a fake reading of Psalm 90:11-12, that we will be held up by the messengers of God and not smash our foot against a stone. We are in the ‘hands’ of God, and that is enough. We are all looking for God because only God can tell us who we really want to become for the betterment of ourselves and others. We saw him as children and we have been looking for him ever since. God is not Neuter or distinctly Male or Female, so pronouns are a problem. Abba is beyond gender. *But a much bigger problem is how to love like God loves, and to learn the secret of how to do it. Look in the enigmatic mirror and see what you can find. After all, you have known within you how to do it all along.*

**Bishop Arthur Jones**

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**THIS WEEK:**

WEDNESDAY.

- Bible Study, 10:00 a.m.
- Group Discussion, 7:30 p.m., Parish Office

THURSDAY. NON-WORKING HOLIDAY.

**NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS:**

Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 103; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

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