

The Episcopal Church of the Holy Trinity welcomes you!



NOVEMBER 17, 2024

Today's collect a universal favorite.

“Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ.. Amen.”

We Christians say that we live under the authority of Scripture: it's the **spring** out of which our common life flows, the story that we're a part of that makes sense of what we do. It's a world we step into and explore, a world in which we meet and interact with the Holy Spirit who waits for us in every verse and chapter.

Too many people adopt the '**policy manual**' approach to Scripture – as if living under its authority meant obeying a set of rules and regulations. Scripture certainly does provide guidelines for behavior, to be sure, but they are general guidelines, not inflexible rules. And it does far, far more than that. Scripture is a **grand narrative**, a story – or maybe the first chapters of a story that is still being told. It sets the stage, describes the setting, tells us what the world, reality, the universe are really like. We are part of that story, and live in that universe.

Scripture tells us, among other things, that ours is a **created** universe, which means it has a purpose, and end, a **goal** towards which it is directed: hence it is a **moral** universe; the basic categories of the Universe are good and evil, truth and falsehood. That God is passionately **involved** in His Creation. He has been involved, in his creation of the world out of nothing, in the molding of man, in the calling of Israel to be his people, in the Word made flesh, Jesus, his Son. He remains involved today through us, through His Church.

In other words, world's is a story without hope: the world is going nowhere, so neither are we. The Bible's story, on the other hand is one of hopeful joy. It enables us, as our collect makes clear, *to embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which [God] have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ.*

We live in a world that is fast losing all hope – though it is only gradually becoming aware of that fact. We too are deeply influenced by its growing hopelessness and have to resist it in order to live up to our calling with is, precisely, to bring hope to the world. We can only do so if we take scripture with the utmost seriousness, *hear, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest it*, as our collect urges us. It is a lifelong task, but on the brings untold rewards.

-Fr. Charles

HAPPENING @ CHT:

MORNING PRAYER:

8:00a.m., Chapel.

(Tues, Wed; Fri & Sat)

MIDWEEK EUCHARIST:

Thurs. 9:00a.m., Chapel.

NOVEMBER:

♦Nov. 23, Saturday, ECW Meeting, 2:00p.m., Rectory.

♦Nov. 24, Sunday. French Service, 11:30a.m.; Joint Thanksgiving Service, 6:30p.m., Union Church of Manila.

♦Nov 28, Thursday, Healing Mass, 3:00p.m, Chapel.

DECEMBER:

♦Dec. 8, Sunday. Norway Advent Service, 5:00p.m.

♦Dec. 14, Saturday. Wedding, 1:00p.m.

♦Dec. 15, Sunday. Wedding, 2:00p.m.

♦Dec. 21, Saturday. Wedding, 2:00p.m.

♦Dec. 29, Sunday. Wedding, 2:00p.m.

SAINTS:

Hilda, Abbess of Whitby, 19 November. Hilda was born in 614 of the royal house of Northumbria. Baptised in York at the age of twelve by the Roman missionary Paulinus, she was later an influential lay leader of the Church. She was encouraged by Aidan of Lindisfarne to become a Religious, and subsequently established a monastery at Streanaeshalch (Whitby). This house became a great centre of learning and was the meeting-place for the important Synod of Whitby in the year 664 at which Hilda's rôle was that of a reconciler between the Roman and the Celtic traditions. She is remembered as a great educator, exemplified in her nurturing of Caedmon's gift of vernacular song. She died on 17 November in the year 680.

Edmund, King of the East Angles, 20 November. Born in about the year 840, Edmund was nominated as king while still a boy. He was crowned King of Norfolk in 855 and of Suffolk the following year. As king, he won the hearts of his subjects by his care of the poor and his steady suppression of wrong-doing. When attacked by the Danes, he refused to give over his kingdom or to renounce his faith in Christ. He was tied to a tree, shot with arrows and finally beheaded on this day in the year 870.