



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

"Our mission is to bring the good news of Jesus Christ's love to our entire community through traditional Anglo-Catholic worship, fellowship, outreach, and Christian formation."

Our Vision: *"We strive to be a haven of healing, reconciliation, joy and peace in service to our wider community and beyond, so that our example in prayer and practice may reflect Christ's love for us all."*

THIS SUNDAY — July 30, 2023

When Human Language Falls Short”



At certain times in our lives, we experience such deep feelings that we are short of words to express them. This may be a time when we have suddenly been struck by the magnificent beauty of creation, or when some overwhelmingly good or bad event has caught us by surprise. At such times, the only thing we can do is be openmouthed in awe, or utter inarticulate sounds.

As humans we are prone to believe that only articulate language makes sense. After all, this is what distinguishes us from the rest of the animal species.

Articulate language does make sense, and it is a good habit to use it properly for efficient communication. In the case of communal prayer, for instance, being able to articulate the prayer in such a way that it is understood by the community is a good practice. If foreign languages are used, it is always recommended that the proper interpretation be provided.

St. Paul was always fond of order and common sense. In his First Letter to the Corinthians, he recommended to the church that whenever someone prayed in a language not understood by the rest—whether it was simply a foreign human language or a so-called “angelic tongue”—it should always be interpreted by someone to the rest,

because the prayer is meant to be a means of edification of the faith. He did not object to private prayers being said in unintelligible languages though.

When it comes to edifying our loving relationship with the Creator, which is after all the main purpose of prayer, it is hard to be always coherent and articulate. Recognizing our weaknesses before our Creator is a must for real reconciliation to take place.

The feeling of inadequacy that must accompany a sincere acknowledgment of our weaknesses is not easy to articulate because it is usually too deep for words. Then the Spirit comes to our rescue.

The language of the Spirit is too deep for us humans to grasp. The Holy Spirit is God Himself, and He does not need to use human language to express feelings. What the Holy Spirit wants to express on our behalf is our deep longing for our communion with the Creator. A deep longing is much better expressed with sighs than with words. Human language will always fall short of expressing such a deep longing.

As St. Paul puts it in his Letter to the Romans, “The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.”

However, being aware of our shortfalls in our relationship with our God and expressing this feeling should not make us sad. It is a first step in our path to reconciliation. If our love for God is genuine, as St. Paul says, “all things work together for good.”

And then he adds, “If God is with us, who is against us? He who did not withhold His own Son, but gave Him up for all of us, will He not with Him also give us everything else?”

Even if our human understanding and language fall short of expressing what we ought to express, we have the Holy Spirit and Christ Himself interceding for us. As long as we willingly allow these intercessors to work in our favor, we should fear nothing.

We have been called according to God’s loving purpose to bring about His reconciling work in this world. And we are destined to share in Christ’s perfect communion and glory.

Our deep sighs of longing will surely turn to pure laughter because it is God’s will that it be so.

Fr. Carlos Espósito

Readings for The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 3:5-12 Romans 8:26-34 Psalm: 119:129-136 Matthew 13:31-33, 44-49a

CALENDAR

Note: We continue worshipping in our historic church. The service will also be on Zoom. The service time is 10am. Tuesday Noon Mass and Friday Morning Prayer at 10:00am are held in All Saints' St. Mary Chapel

SUNDAY July 30, 2023 The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00am Mass in All Saints' Church

Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org

Recording of Mass available before noon at www.allsaintschurch.org

Christian Formation and First Communion Instruction for Children

Ages 5-12 in the Parish Hall from 10:00am-10:45am

Christian Formation Meets this Sunday July 30 at Noon in

the Rector's Office. Book Study: "God's Secretaries: The Making of the King James Bible" by Adam Nicolson

TUESDAY Noon Mass in St. Mary Chapel

THURSDAY Spanish Class 1:00pm to 3:00pm in the Flower Room. Taught by Fr. Carlos

FRIDAY 10:00am Morning Prayer in St. Mary Chapel

SUNDAY August 6, 2023 The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00am Mass in All Saints' Church

Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org

Recording of Mass available before noon at www.allsaintschurch.org

Christian Formation and First Communion Instruction for Children

Ages 5-12 in the Parish Hall from 10:00am-10:45am

Christian Formation Meets next on Sunday August 13 at Noon in the

Rector's Office. Book Study: "God's Secretaries: The Making of the King James Bible" by Adam Nicolson

OUR CORE VALUES:

- Welcoming strangers like old friends
- Embracing the Anglo-Catholic tradition
- Being dependable members of a caring community
- Respecting each other's differences
- Being faithful stewards of God's gift
- Remembering that God loves everyone unconditionally