



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 — June 11, 2023

“Hoping Against Hope”



Our Christian faith is all about hope. It is a hope based on our certitude that God's promises will be fulfilled, even if the objective circumstantial evidence seems to contradict that hope.

Come to think of it, most of the time our hope looks outrageously contrary to the hopelessness that surrounds us in this world of ours. We only have to take a look at the daily news of wars, conflicts, wanton killings, extreme poverty, injustice, homelessness, and natural disasters raging in this world, to practically lose all hope.

Even so, our hope is not only that this world can and will be made better, but that we will share a life filled with so much goodness that not even our wildest imagination can envision its glory and splendor.

This kind of hope is akin to the one that Abraham, the father of all nations, had through his unwavering faith in God's promises to him. Although there was no way he could

have an objective certitude in his descendants inheriting the world, he firmly believed God and left everything behind to move to the land where God was telling him to go.

This is what St. Paul calls “the righteousness of faith” as opposed to the righteousness of the adherents to the law. For those who believe through faith—complete trust in God’s promises, as opposed to the illusion that they can gain paradise by strictly adhering to the law—everything rests on God’s grace only, and is not perceived as deserved or gained through the fulfillment of commandments.

This is the promise that St. Paul is now sharing with the Gentiles, regardless of their adherence or not to Jewish laws.

To make his claim more credible, St. Paul quotes Genesis to forward the idea that Abraham is “the father of us all”, in the part where God says to him, “I have made you the father of many nations.”

Abraham really hoped against hope. Nothing in his life showed any hints that this promise would become a reality. Both he and his wife were already old and had no descendants, so how could this even start to happen? Even so, he kept on believing in God’s promises and his wife Sarah had a son at an advanced age, who was the forefather of the Jewish tribes.

So life itself proved God’s unfailing promise true, even if Abraham himself was not able to see it in his lifetime.

In Chapter 5 of his book, the prophet Hosea announces the time when “God will revive His people, and will raise them up, that they may live before Him.” And what God demands from the people is not adherence to the ritualistic system of the law. God desires “steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.”

In Matthew’s Gospel, Chapter 9, Jesus makes reference to this when He rebukes those who criticize Him for eating with “tax collectors and sinners”. He says to them, “Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’”

The hope Christ offers is not related to the self-righteousness of those who count on their belonging to the “chosen people” and “fulfilling the law”. He offers hope to those who used to live in hopelessness for being considered sinners and outcasts.

Jesus says to them, “For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.” From that moment on, those who listened to Him then—and also we who listen to Him nowadays—are free to start hoping against hope, and live a life filled with the hope that comes from God’s sure promise of true and abundant life.

Fr. Carlos Espósito

Readings for The Second Sunday after Pentecost

Hosea 5:15-6:6 Romans 4:13-18 Psalm 50:7-15 Matthew 9:9-13

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 June 11, 2023 The Second 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 at Noon in the Rector’s

Office. Book Study: The Three Conversions of the Christian Life

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 June 18, 2023 The Third 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

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