



# 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 — August 20, 2023**

**“A House for All Peoples”**



We are used to thinking of Christianity as a religion that offers salvation to all peoples, and makes no distinction based on race or national origin. As long as someone accepts Christ as their Lord and Savior, this person will not be

excluded from God's House.

This is true, and even though throughout the history of Christianity not all peoples have been treated with equity by the ruling classes professing the faith, the idea that the acceptance of Christ is essential for the salvation of the soul prompted even colonizers in the past to make sure that the Christian faith was also taken to all colonized peoples (most of the time in a forcible manner, unfortunately).

In most recent times humanity has become aware of these great mistakes of the past, and the idea of a really inclusive and equitable (but not by any means imposed) Christian faith is prevailing in most countries of the world.

Sadly, separations have existed within the Christian church until recently even in the western world, including America. Although these separations were not seen as exclusion from God's grace, they have certainly created a sense of division and exclusion from within.

Until a few decades ago, there were churches for white people and for black people (folks with a somewhat dark skin had problems finding their slot). There were also churches where (although not explicitly expressed) you were only truly accepted if you had a certain social standing.

Fortunately, these divisions have been done away with (officially) in most churches in the last decades. Doctrinal differences and issues related to gender identity are still a dividing factor, and the latter issues are creating a greater split in today's Church Universal.

It would be good to take a look back at what the founders of the church, like St. Paul, and even the Jewish prophets like Isaiah, had to say about who would be accepted in God's House of Love.

The Jews thought they were God's chosen people, not only for their own sake, but for all humanity's sake, because all peoples would be saved by adopting their true religion. Those who worshiped idols and false gods would not take part in salvation, but foreigners (and even eunuchs who were excluded from taking part in worship by the Law) would be granted a place in God's House if they accepted the true religion, according to Isaiah.

In chapter 56, the prophet says, "Do not let the foreigner joined to the Lord say, 'The Lord will surely separate me from His people', and do not let the eunuch say, 'I am just a dry tree', for thus says the Lord: To the eunuchs who keep my sabbaths, who choose the things that please me and hold fast my covenant, I will give, in my house and within my walls, a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off."

A name better than sons and daughters! An everlasting name that shall not be cut off! What could be more eloquently inclusive than that?

As to St. Paul, he even uses his apostleship to the Gentiles as a contrast to the rejection of Jesus' New Way by the Jews. As a Jew himself, he wishes that the acceptance of this New Way by people who used to worship idols would open the eyes of the Jews, and he laments that this is not happening, except in a few cases.

In his letter to the Romans, chapter 11, he states, "Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I glorify my ministry in order to make my own people jealous, and thus save some of them."

The only separation proclaimed in the Holy Scriptures is for those who stubbornly refuse to let God's all-encompassing Love inhabit in their hearts and minds, and consequently cannot "maintain justice, and do what is right...and refrain from doing any evil", as Isaiah affirms.

For all others, as the prophet says, "my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples."

Fr. Carlos

Readings for The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 56:1-7    Romans 11:13-15, 29-32    Psalm: 67    Matthew 15:21-28

## 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    August 20, 2023    The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**

**10:00am Mass in All Saints' Church**

Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at [www.allsaintschurch.org](http://www.allsaintschurch.org)

Recording of Mass available before noon at [www.allsaintschurch.org](http://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 27 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 27, 2023 The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**10:00am Mass in All Saints' Church**

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**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