



# 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 — September 10, 2023**

## **“What Jesus’ Followers Hate”**



Hatred is not a word whose frequent use Christians would encourage. On the contrary, as followers of Jesus, we are encouraged to avoid not only the words *hate* and *hatred*, but to avoid the feeling and, above all, the practice.

Hatred as it is frequently understood is a negative and destructive feeling, usually directed at a person or a group of people whom we consider our enemies, either because they oppose our vital interests and welfare, or because they have harmed us or are potentially harmful to us.

This can extend from the personal to the communal, and even to the national or international arena, causing conflicts and even wars.

New Testament writers, voicing Jesus's sayings or expressing their own views as Jesus' followers, are totally opposed to this kind of hatred, and in their writings exhort the communities of converts to live in harmony and peace, avoiding any kind of animosity leading to hatred among them.

Old Testament writers may sometimes advocate for hate and even destruction in the case of the unfaithful to the Lord. However, some prophets, like Ezekiel, present a view which is more in accord with the later New Testament view in this sense.

In chapter 33, the prophet Ezekiel states, “As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the dead of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?”

So according to this view, God hates sin, but not the sinner. God knows that if the sinners persist in their sins, they will inevitably be destroyed, but would rather have them repent and live.

In his letter to the Romans, St. Paul uses the verb *hate* in the sense of *disliking something deeply and rejecting it*. In this sense, the word can and should be used when referring to evil and sin.

St. Paul expresses that for love to be genuine, we must necessarily hate what is evil. And to make things clear, on the very same line he adds, love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor.”

And if we still have doubts as to whether St. Paul is only advocating for love among the members of the church, further on he says, “Do not repay anyone evil with evil, but take thought of what is noble in the sight of all.” And he then goes on to say, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

This is a pivotal true teaching in Christianity. Jesus Himself showed us how He did not hate even his tormentors and executors and forgave them out loud before His Heavenly Father.

The only way to overcome evil is by hating it in the sense that St. Paul shows, and by using good to oppose it.

The phrase “heap burning coals on their heads” may be ambiguous, but I would like to read it in a positive sense. Not in the sense that by doing good to my enemies I will favor their destruction, but in the sense that they may feel a fire in their heads that will make them turn from their wicked ways and live, as the prophet Ezekiel states.

Fr. Carlos

Readings for The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 33:7-11    Romans 12:9-21    Psalm: 119:33-40    Matthew 18:15-20

## 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    September 10, 2023    The Fifteenth 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 this Sunday September 10 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    September 17, 2023    The Sixteenth 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 September 24 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