



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

THIS SUNDAY June 3 & BEYOND”

God, a Young Woman and a Vision



ARTWORK BY DANIEL MITSUI
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Have you ever experienced a vision of something about God? We are celebrating the feast of Corpus Christi on Sunday, and it all started with God, a young woman, and a vision.

Way back in the 1200's, 1208 to be exact, in the town of Liege, in what we now know as Belgium, a young woman by the name of a Juliana had a vision. Actually, two. Her life story reports that the primary vision was first given in 1208 of Jesus Christ himself telling Juliana to work to bring about the institution of a feast day honoring by adoration and devotion the Body of Christ. And this vision was underscored by a

vision of the Church under the appearance of the full moon having one dark spot, which signified the absence of such a solemnity. The vision from Christ was repeated for 20 years before she made it known to her priest confessor, and it was so moving and extraordinary he shared it with his bishop. A good testimony is always highly valued!

Although women's devotional groups in and around Liege were already focusing on the adoration of Jesus Christ present in the Holy Communion service, the local bishop eventually gave honor to Juliana's series of visions themselves by declaring a church festival for Corpus Christi, or The Body of Christ, in 1247. Within 20 years the celebration had gone "viral" and was no longer contained to Liege or the surrounding diocesan churches. In 1264, Pope Urban IV, who had spent some of his church clergy career in Liege, proclaimed it a feast of the whole Western Church, after Trinity Sunday. In that same year, St. Thomas Aquinas, presumably inspired by the Pope's declaration and by the devotion itself, wrote the office of Evening Prayer on the feast day, the famous hymn Pange Lingua which translated means tell out (sing) my tongue. Here is a more literal translation of the hymn:

Tell, tongue, the mystery / of the glorious Body
and of the precious Blood, / which, for the price of the world,
the fruit of a noble Womb, / the King of the Nations poured forth.

Given to us, born for us, / from the untouched Virgin,
and dwelt in the world / after the seed of the Word had been scattered.
His inhabiting ended the delays / with wonderful order.

On the night of the Last Supper, / reclining with His brethren,
once the Law had been fully observed / with the prescribed foods,
as food to the crowd of Twelve / He gives Himself with His hands.

The Word as Flesh makes true bread / into flesh by a word
and the wine becomes the Blood of Christ. / And if sense is deficient
to strengthen a sincere heart / Faith alone suffices.

[Tantum Ergo:] Therefore, the great Sacrament / let us reverence, prostrate:
and let the old Covenant / give way to a new rite.
Let faith stand forth as substitute / for defect of the senses.

To the Begetter and the Begotten / be praise and jubilation,
greeting, honour, strength also / and blessing.
To the One who proceeds from Both / be equal praise. Amen, Alleluia.

As far as our Episcopal church is concerned, and the Church of England, and Anglicans around the world, Corpus Christi was dropped from the days of the Reformation in England, and was not included in the 1662 Book of Common Prayer (still in use in many places). But it began to be restored in various Provinces, sometimes officially, sometimes not. In the United States there has been a set of bible readings and prayers “for the Holy Eucharist”, which can be made use of at any time. This has given devotional groups, especially Anglo-Catholic Episcopalians such as All Saints' Church, the freedom to celebrate Corpus Christi, as well. And we do, and we are this coming Sunday.

You know, the hardest part of sharing such a spiritual phenomenon of a vision, or any “word from the Lord” is the fear of being completely rejected by others, and even mocked. Juliana was willing to set aside her fears eventually – 20 years later! – and as a result, the direction from Christ in the vision was accomplished.

If you have had a vision, or a word, something that would benefit the church in its devotion to Christ, please share it.

Come worship the Lord; receive His strength by receiving His Body and Blood. All who are baptized in the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit are welcome to receive. If not baptized, perhaps you would consider doing so.

Father Rob Eaton, Interim Rector

CALENDAR

SUNDAY: A Special observance of the Feast of CORPUS CHRISTI

8:00a Low Mass (Church)

10:30a Solemn High Mass (Church)

—*The entrance to the church is on 6th Avenue*—

Note: Coffee Hour & Fellowship follow the Mass in the Parish Hall.

MONDAY: 7:00p (AA) Doctors' Group (Fireside Room)

TUESDAY: Noon Mass (St. Mary's Chapel)

FRIDAY: AA Meetings

8:00p Ladies' Group (Fireside Room)

8:15p Men's Group (Parish Hall)