



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 12 & BEYOND

Fertile Soil for God's Word



In Chapter 55 of the Book of the Prophet Isaiah there is a rich poetic comparison between the water cycle and the purpose of God's Word. The prophet says, "For as the rain and snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and

sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it".

The Word of God is a powerful image that has come to be known as that which acts out God's will. It was through this Word that the whole creation came into being. It was through it that the leaders of God's people and the prophets made God's will known to them so they could act it out. It has been through the written Word of God, the Holy Scriptures, that people have been reminded of God's acting will throughout the centuries and so many lives have been wonderfully transformed into the likeness of God's true image.

Above all, it was through God's incarnate Word, Jesus Christ Our Lord, that God's kingdom of unconditional love was revealed to humankind in the most tangible way possible, in human flesh. And His Word, in perfect harmony with His deeds, guide us in His Way of Love so that we can also be effective carriers of God's Word for the world.

As followers of the Word Incarnate, Christ our Savior and Lord, we are called to incarnate His Word in our lives, to act out God's loving will in our here and now.

In the Parable of the Sower, which can be thought of as the mother of all of Jesus' parables, because it is the first one in a series, and the first one he explains; but also because it refers to God's Word and how we let it act on us, Jesus compares the way the Word is received and made to act with different kinds of soils where the seeds fall while sowing. So, he presents different scenarios: the seeds that fall on the road, the ones that fall on rocky ground, those that fall among thorns, and finally the ones that fall on fertile ground. All these were plausible situations during the common practice of sowing seeds in Jesus' time.

The result of each scenario, except for the last one, is always a negative one. Only the fertile soil enables the seeds to bring forth abundant grain, depending on the degree of fertility.

Likewise, only when we open ourselves to God's life-giving Word, and not only receive it joyfully, but let it sink deeply into our minds and hearts so it becomes an essential part of our lives, are we capable of incarnating His Holy Word. When that happens, then what God put in Isaiah's mouth becomes true for us, "the Word shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it".

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 55:1-5, 10-13 Psalm 65:9-14 Romans 8:9-17 Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

CALENDAR

Note: All worship services and meetings will be Zoom meetings. Visit our web site for the Zoom link (see below).

SUNDAY: The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
9:00am Service
Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org

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

FRIDAY In Dialogue with Scripture at noon
Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org

SUNDAY The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
9:00am Service
Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org