



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 7 & Beyond

"A City Founded on Faith"



Chapter 11 of the Letter to the Hebrews brings us the topic of faith, which is the main theme of what being a follower of Jesus actually means.

Contrary to what many modern writers and movie scripters would like to make us believe, true faith is not about "a blind leap into the unknown" or a stubborn trust in some entity, whether human or supernatural.

This is the way the writer of Hebrews describes true faith: "the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

Notice the use of the words *assurance* and *conviction* to depict our faith in God.

Immediately after this, the writer also uses the term *understand*, when affirming that "by faith we *understand* that the world was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was made out of things which do not appear."

In other words, faith is not necessarily opposed to our reasoning or our common sense. It does require that we trust our Creator though, that we believe in His very being (I have

never liked the word *existence* to refer to God, but rather to all that God has created. I would rather say that God IS.), and in His loving care of us.

To make his point clearer, the writer of Hebrews gives examples of faithful men of the past and their righteousness towards God and their fellow human beings. Among those mentioned we have Abel, Enoch, Noah, and finally Abraham. He also points out how they all trusted in God's promises, even though they did not see the promise fulfilled in their lifetime (except in the case of Enoch, who was taken up by God Himself.)

What all these characters have in common, according to the writer of Hebrews, is that through faith they were able to please God, and fulfill the mission that God had assigned them, whose real fruits in many cases was only visible many generations later, as in the case of Abraham.

None of these great men of the past based their faith on the false hope that God would spare them from harsh times or even death (Enoch did not foresee that God would spare him from death). In most cases, being faithful to God for them meant doing things that others would consider illogical or unlikely.

When Noah started building the ark, the rest of the people laughed at him and did not believe there would be a devastating flood.

When Abraham started his journey towards the unknown land that God told him to go to, he was quietly leading a good life in Ur.

But these people did not base their faith on a senseless blind trust. They had the inner conviction and assurance that God was real and understood that His word was to be trusted.

They also understood what their role was. They saw themselves as strangers and exiles on the earth. Their aim was not to return to the place they had come from, but to seek a homeland, a better country, "a heavenly one", as the writer of Hebrews puts it.

And God has prepared for them, as for us who follow Him in trust, a city founded on faith.

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito. Rector

Readings for The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 15:1-6 Hebrews 11:1-16 Psalm 33:12-15, 18-22 Luke 12:32-40

CALENDAR

Note: We are worshipping in our historic church. The service will also be on Zoom. The service time is 10am. Tuesday Noon Mass and Friday Morning Prayer are held in All Saints' St. Mary Chapel.

SUNDAY Ninth 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 every second and fourth Sunday of the month at

11:30am Studying *Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul* by John Philip Newell

Rector's Study

A Spanish Mass will be held on the first, second, fourth (and fifth) Sundays each month at 1pm. Everyone is welcome.

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 The Tenth 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