



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 14 & Beyond

"Like Fire and a Heavy Hammer"



In this week's reading selections, we have this excerpt from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah in which God's Word is compared to "fire, and a hammer that breaks a stone in pieces."

We do not normally like to read and hear such comparisons and would rather have images of God's Word that soothe us and take us to blissful states of mind, like those meditation tapes that used to be in fashion some decades ago (and still are, using more contemporary media though).

But the Bible does have these and other extremely harsh images of God's Word. The writer of Hebrews refers to God's Word as "sharper than a double-edged sword", for instance.

Jeremiah was an extremely unpopular prophet in his time. It was a time when the kingdom of Judea was facing the threat of being conquered by the Babylonians, and the king and the false prophets who surrounded him would rather speak and hear false hopes and attempt foreign alliances to prevent this from happening.

Jeremiah, on the contrary, would only speak the truth of the inevitability of them being subjected to the Babylonians, and proclaimed this was a result of all the injustice and unfaithfulness of the rulers and those who followed them, including these false prophets.

The main target of Jeremiah's harsh criticism is these prophets "who prophesy lies in God's name saying 'I have dreamed, I have dreamed.'"

These are the ones who say what they know the king and his followers want to hear. They do not speak in God's name, because God is Truth--even when this truth is the hardest to hear and face—but in their own names, pretending that their illusions are inspired by God.

Their words may have deceived many because it is the hardest thing for a nation to accept that it would be conquered and subjected to a foreign power, and Jeremiah had to suffer humiliation, incarceration and threats for remaining faithful to God's Word.

But history proved that Jeremiah was a true prophet of God, speaking His truth no matter how hard it was, and putting up with the opposition and misunderstanding with relentless integrity and patience.

The world we are living in is full of injustice, and lack of compassion and true love. There are armed conflicts going on, caused by selfish ambitions and the illusion of power. Our planet is being disrupted by the irresponsible exploitation of natural resources that causes pollution, increases the likelihood of diseases, and the imbalance of the climate of the Earth.

Even so, we are still hoping to hear words of comfort, words that reassure us and make us believe that there is nothing really wrong with the way we are living, and that God's favor is with us.

But these words are like straw compared to wheat. They do not nourish our souls. They do not help us make the needed change in our lives.

We need the Word that is "like fire, and like a hammer that breaks a rock to pieces", as Jeremiah said. God's living Word is powerful indeed, and when it is authentic and we

take it into the inner recesses of our souls, it inevitably moves us to change ourselves and the world that surrounds us into what God wills it to be.

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito. Rector

Readings for The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 23:23-29 Hebrews 12:1-14 Psalm 82 Luke 12:49-56

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 Tenth 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 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

10:00am Mass in All Saints' Church

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

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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

An Anglo-Catholic Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego

www.allsaintschurch.org