



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

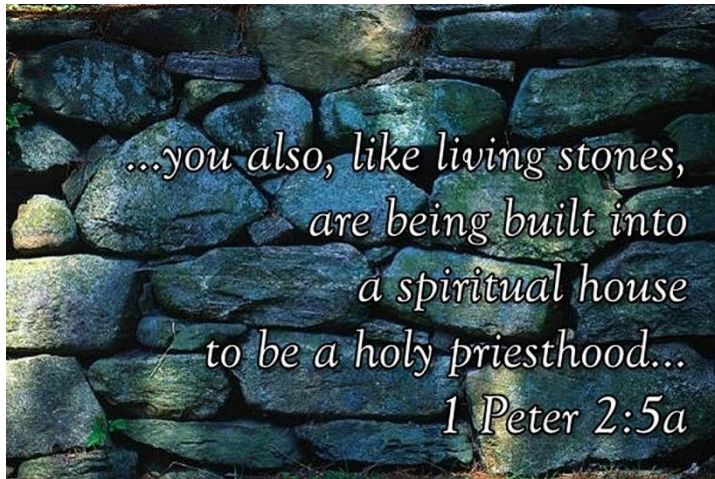
"Our mission is to bring the good news of Jesus Christ's love to our entire community through traditional Anglo-Catholic worship, fellowship, outreach, and Christian formation."

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 — May 7, 2023

"Becoming the Living Stones of God's House

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When we hear or read the expression “God’s House” our everyday experience leads us to think of a building or dwelling place. In fact, many of us speak of the church building as “God’s House.”

Holy Scripture uses images that were familiar to the readers of the time to refer to transcendent realities. This is one of the

main differences between the Hebrew Bible and classical Greek Philosophy. The latter uses abstractions and archetypes to refer to transcendence.

Even though we find some of these abstractions in the New Testament due to the inevitable influence of the Greco-Roman world—the concept of the Logos, for instance—they are interpreted from a totally different perspective, which is always linked to the everyday reality of the readers and listeners.

The Logos in John the Evangelist’s writings became flesh in the concrete historical person of Jesus Christ, and dwelt among them. He is transcendent and incarnate at the same time.

So when in John’s Gospel Jesus is talking to His disciples about their full participation in God’s Reign of Love, He does not use abstract philosophical language like “you will be partakers and agents of universal love”, but He talks about what the things they were familiar with.

Jesus tells them about God's house and assures them that there are many rooms in it, where they will have a place. He even uses a figure in which He Himself goes to this house to prepare a place for them. They can relate to this image. Even so, they have trouble identifying the place where Jesus is going.

Thomas is bold enough to ask questions when he does not understand something that Jesus says. He probably asks the questions they all had in their minds, but none of them dares to ask. For this reason, he has come to be known as the one who doubts or questions. But in fact he did his companions a good service in several instances.

When Thomas asks, "How can we know the way?" (to God's House), Jesus replies with the well-known phrase, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life."

Jesus was not trying to be enigmatic or even exclusive—as some have unfortunately interpreted. He was simply pointing to what the disciples knew—His person. They had been with Him for almost three years, listening to His teachings, sharing His life experience, witnessing and taking part in healings and other loving life-giving acts. They had all this first-hand experience that was worth much more than any abstract terms Jesus might try to use.

To make this even clearer, when Philip—another bold speaker in the group—asks Him to show them the Father as sufficient proof, Jesus simply reminds him—and the others who did not dare to ask—of all they had lived with Him and of the works of unconditional love He had done in the Father's name.

God was transcendent already in the Hebrew Scriptures. He was not conceptualized or argued about in the Bible. The Hebrew Scriptures simply take God for granted and when asked by Moses about His name, God simply replies "I am (who I am)." In other words, it is useless to try to argue about God's being.

But in the person of Jesus Christ, God can be known to humankind. And by following in His Way of Love we inhabit His house and invite others who do not know Him to come to His house too.

In his First Letter, chapter 2, the Apostle Peter uses a particularly beautiful image to express this idea. He states, "Come to Him (Jesus Christ), a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

May we always be these living stones making up God's House.

Fr. Carlos Espósito

Readings for The Fifth Sunday after Easter

Acts 17:1-15 1 Peter 2:1-10 Psalm 66:1-10 John 14:1-14

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 May 7, 2023 Fifth Sunday of Easter

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 Meets next on May 14 at Noon in the Rector's

Office. Book Study: The Three Conversions of the Christian Life

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 May 14, 2023 The Sixth Sunday of Easter

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