



# 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 27, 2023**

**“God’s Inscrutable Ways”**



As much as we would like to be in control all the time, life continually shows us that we are not.

The human mind is a great wonder indeed. It is a wonderful tool through

which God’s creation becomes aware of itself to the greatest degree. Some animals already have some kind of consciousness, but it is the human creature who not only can perceive creation in great detail, but can even have the notion of a Creator, and of the purpose of life itself.

Throughout history, and particularly with the greatest advances of science and technology of the latest decades, humans have tried to be in control of their lives and the environment. Weather predictions are now more accurate than decades ago, and there may come a time when earthquakes can be predicted with a degree of certainty.

We all make our plans and have our agendas for the day, for the week, for the month, for the year...

Last week we at All Saints' had made plans for a well-attended Sunday liturgy. We had also planned to have our regular Vestry meeting after the mass. Then by the end of the week uncertainty began to disturb us. A tropical storm would hit San Diego! A most unusual event.

Most forecasts said the greater winds and rains would be in the late hours of Sunday, so would it still be possible to have the mass and the meeting?

People called and sent messages. They all asked questions demanding determinations. Everyone wants to be in control. They all want to know exactly what is going to happen. But is this even possible?

On Saturday the weather forecast had changed. The storm had moved faster than expected and the rain and wind would land on San Diego earlier on Sunday. Even so we did not call off the service.

We had a service with fewer people, of course. And the Vestry meeting was postponed for the following Sunday. But some of us were able to talk about important matters during a brief preliminary meeting, so the fact of the meeting being postponed would not be such a bad thing after all. God's ways are inscrutable.

We sometimes get angry with God. We fret and fuss when our well-thought-out plans are disrupted. We cannot understand why things, that from our perspective are "perfectly planned for the best possible good", are suddenly disrupted.

But God always knows best.

It was unthinkable at the time after Jesus was raised and ascended that pagan peoples would be more willing to accept Jesus' Way of Love than most Jews.

After all, Jesus, a Jew Himself, had come to His people to proclaim His message of reconciliation to the people who believed in the only true God. His followers had identified Him as the Messiah, the Christ that the Jews expected as the savior of their nation and the whole world.

The first followers of Jesus were Jews, of course. But it turned out that people from pagan nations who came in contact with them started to believe in the New Way with more readiness than the Jews.

St. Paul, though totally aware that his mission was with the Gentiles, was nonetheless astounded by this seeming contradiction, and deep inside fervently wished that more

people from his own nation would open their hearts and minds to the Good News of Salvation that had been offered to them.

In his letter to the Romans, referring to this fact, he exclaims,

“O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscrutable His ways!”

Even so, he acknowledges that, even if contrary to his personal wishes, the spread of the Good News among the Gentiles, without requiring their conversion to Judaism, was the best thing that might have happened for the fulfillment of God’s plan.

He concludes chapter 11 with the following words,

“For from Him (God) and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.”

Fr. Carlos

Readings for The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 51:1-6    Romans 11:33-36    Psalm: 138    Matthew 16:13-20

## 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    August 27, 2023    The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**10:00am Mass in All Saints’ Church**

Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at [www.allsaintschurch.org](http://www.allsaintschurch.org)

Recording of Mass available before noon at [www.allsaintschurch.org](http://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 Sunday September 10 at Noon

in the Rector’s Office. Book Study: “God’s Secretaries: The Making of the King James Bible” by Adam Nicolson

**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 **September 3, 2023 The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**10:00am Mass in All Saints' Church**

Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at [www.allsaintschurch.org](http://www.allsaintschurch.org)

Recording of Mass available before noon at [www.allsaintschurch.org](http://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](http://www.allsaintschurch.org)