



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 14, 2024

The Kiss of Righteousness and Peace



In this world of ours—and in past centuries too—the notion of peace is usually associated with compromise and the acceptance of a certain degree of injustice by those who are ruled by others. Although modern society tends to consider this as a feature of tyrannical societies only, the fact is that even in democratic societies some degree of unrighteousness for some parts of the society is implicitly taken for granted—though not explicitly expressed by the laws.

This usually leads to restlessness and even upheavals in some sectors of society, and it can lead to civil wars, or even wars between nations when a whole nation feels it is being oppressed by another.

Empires in the past, as in the case of the Roman Empire, promised their subjugated nations “peace”, in exchange for their agreeing to pay taxes and be politically subject to them. They even promised to defend them from the attack of other nations outside the Empire.

Some nations agreed to this kind of compromise, not because it was to their liking, but because they saw no other way to survive against a powerful Empire. Such was the case of Israel during the Roman occupation.

But peace without righteousness is not real. It is just apparent, and can only be tolerated for some time. This is not the peace Jesus spoke about, nor the peace the prophets and Old Testament writers referred to.

Jesus used the equivalent of the word peace (*shalom* in his language) a lot. This was a common way of greeting among his contemporaries and fellow countrymen. What this word meant, however, was much more than the simple absence of conflict or violence. It meant all good things, a state of wellbeing.

And Jesus also spoke to His disciples about the peace “that passes all understanding.” This was not just a state of wellbeing related to external circumstances, but a deep inner state that depended on the assuredness of God’s presence only, no matter how contrary to eternal peace the circumstances might be.

Real peace can only exist in the presence of true righteousness. And righteousness is so much more than simply living according to the established laws. It means living in God’s truth, and this truth can only exist if mercy abounds.

When Old Testament prophets spoke about righteousness, they were not thinking about some stiff and strict way of living, but about a community where the rulers and the ruled lived in such a way that the needs of others were always taken into account, and those who were in more unfavorable conditions were helped by those who had more.

This is what being righteous and having fear of God really meant for the prophets and those who heeded them. For the people of Israel the rulers were always subordinate to God and His true prophets, and for that reason when a prophet prophesied against an unjust ruler, this ruler tried to silence him or even eliminate him physically. Rulers knew people listened to the prophets.

False prophets, on the other hand, tried to please rulers, even if they were not righteous, to ensure their privileged positions, and tried to convince the people that by obeying their ruler they would have “peace.”

One of the most beautiful images about truth, peace, mercy, and righteousness from the perspective of those who followed the true prophets is found in Psalm 85, verses 10 and 11: “Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other. Truth shall sing forth from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.”

This is a wonderful vision of what God's Kingdom on earth should look like. Let us embrace it and, with God's grace and strength, endeavor to make it true.

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector

Readings for The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost: Amos 7:7-15 Psalm 85:7-13
Ephesians 1:1-14 Mark 6:7-13

CALENDAR

Note: We worship in our historic church. The service will also be on Zoom. The Sunday service time is 10:00am, Tuesday Noon Mass, and Friday 10:00am Morning Prayer.

SUNDAY July 14, 2024 The Eighth 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 at www.allsaintschurch.org

Christian Formation and First Communion Instruction for Children

Ages 5-12 in the Parish Hall from 10:00am-10:45am

Adult Christian Formation meets this Sunday July 14 at noon in the Rector's Office and Library

TUESDAY Noon Mass in St. Mary Chapel

THURSDAY Spanish Class on Thursdays, from 1pm-3pm in the Library

FRIDAY 10:00am Morning Prayer in St. Mary Chapel

SUNDAY July 21, 2024 The 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 at www.allsaintschurch.org

Christian Formation and First Communion Instruction for Children

Ages 5-12 in the Parish Hall from 10:00am-10:45am

Adult Christian Formation meets next on Sunday July 28 at noon in the Rector's Office and Library

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