



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 21, 2024

No Longer Strangers and Aliens



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The Jews thought of themselves as “God’s chosen people”, and the heathen people who surrounded their nations were seen by them as “godless”. They were aware that God had chosen them to bring real salvation to the whole world, but the only way this would happen was if the aliens were converted to Judaism.

When Jesus’ movement started, the first converts were Jews or Jewish proselytes, of course. It was only after some non-Jewish people in Antioch received Jesus’ Way, and converted, that the idea of accepting non-Jewish people as Christ’s followers arose. In fact, this was quite controversial at first, and St. Paul had a lot to do with defending this position, and spreading Jesus’ Way among the Gentiles.

The Gentiles—the non-Jewish people—were not familiar with God’s covenants with the Jewish people, or with Holy Scripture. Jesus Himself was a Jew, and His teachings and practices were based on His cultural and religious background. Although He did have a universal sense of His mission, and commissioned His followers to go out to “all

the nations of the world”, He Himself had declared that He had first been sent to “the House of Israel.”

Though the Gentile converts felt that Jesus’ message of salvation spoke to them, they could not help feeling that there were things that felt “alien” to them. The world they lived in was in stark contrast with what Jesus proclaimed. Even for the Jews, Jesus’ proclamation was counter cultural. How much more so for the Gentiles!

In addition to this contrast, the acceptance by the Jewish Christians of the Gentile converts was slow and troublesome. They were at first rejected by some Jewish Christians or forced to conform to the Jewish customs and laws.

St. Paul was the great Apostle of the Gentiles. He spread Christ’s message of salvation to a great part of the Gentile world. Being a Jew himself, he had to struggle with some of his own customs and traditions, and embrace Jesus’ Way of Love as his first and foremost rule of life. He also presented Jesus’ message in such a way that the Gentiles no longer felt this was an “alien” message to them. They had to feel that were equally loved and accepted by God and His beloved Son, Jesus Christ.

His proclamation was so effective that the Gentile converts soon exceeded the Jewish ones, and the main reason for this was his conviction that what really mattered was not the external marks or customs, but the faith that Jesus’ Way of Love was the way to real and abundant life.

Jesus’ Way is now a universal faith, and has been accepted by people with diverse cultural backgrounds. The ways people worship in Christian communities throughout the world may differ in language, type of music, and other cultural manifestations, but the essence is always the same: Christ’s Good News of salvation for all humankind. No matter where you come from, if you are Christ’s follower you will never feel as an “alien” in an authentic Christian community anywhere in the world.

Christ’s universal language of acceptance and love is the same everywhere we go. As a member of God’s universal family, we are all God’s children, and as St. Paul put it in his Letter to the Ephesians, “so then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Himself as the cornerstone.”

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector

Readings for The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost: Isaiah 57:14b-21 Psalm 22:22-30
Ephesians 2:11-22 Mark 6:30-44

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 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

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 28, 2024 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