



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 — March 17, 2024

“A New Kind of Relationship”



The way we relate to our Creator, to one another, and to the rest of creation is what determines where we are in Christ's Way of Love in our pilgrimage to God's Home—our true Home.

We are all walking on the way, and God is always placing signposts and cheering and encouraging us all along, so that we do not give up or go astray, because He longs for us to be in His presence and be partakers of the same glory that His only-begotten Son now shares with Him in His glorious Kingdom.

There are different ways to relate to God, to our fellow human beings, and to His whole creation. As we mature as God's true sons and daughters, there is a shift in this kind of relationship, which goes from the mere sense of forceful obedience out of the fear of punishment—which resembles the way children were traditionally brought up to obey their parents and elder family members—to a deeper sense of loving communion with the Source of all life—the Creator—, with all humankind, and with all other forms of life in this creation.

This is, in essence, the kind of relationship that God's incarnate Son—Jesus Christ our Lord—has taught us; this is what we know as His Way of Love, but it was already present in the Old Testament prophets' teachings. We could say that some of these

prophets—like Jeremiah—foresaw the time when this new type of relationship, or New Covenant, would be established.

It is no mere coincidence that the whole body of Holy Scriptures that was written after Christ's glorious Resurrection and Ascension is known as the New Testament (or New Covenant). All of Christ's teachings are based on this new kind of loving relationship, which implies the forgiveness of all our past sins, and an intimate and inner way of relating to a loving God, whose only demand is our total willing acceptance of His love for our lives.

Now we would no longer be referring to "God for us", as the Israelites who were freed from the bondage in Egypt and led to the promised land conceived their Lord. Not even as "God with us"—Emmanuel, which is the God envisioned by the prophets when they longed for their God to make His dwelling among His people, and be with them at all times. It is now time for "God in us"—a most intimate inner and loving communion with the Source of all that is, so that we become an integral part of this source and of all that has been created.

This is what Jeremiah already foretold when he said, speaking in the Lord's name: "I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more."

Knowing, for the Israelites, had much more to do with intimate relationship than with intellectual activity. In fact, the same verb is used in Hebrew for having sexual intercourse as for getting to know something. This gives us a clearer picture of what the prophet actually meant when he said, speaking in God's name: "for they shall know me."

In this new kind of relationship obeying God's law comes, not as a result of fear of punishment, but as an inevitable result of this intimate loving communion with God's very being and will.

This is the kind of relationship that we, as followers of Christ's Way, aspire to attain in our own lives, and this is also the wondrous Good News we cannot help but sharing with the whole world.

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito

Readings for the Fifth Sunday in Lent: Jeremiah 31:31-34 Hebrews 5:1-10
Psalm 51:11-16 John 12:20-33

CALENDAR

Note: We worship in our historic church. The service will also be on Zoom. The service time is 10am. Tuesday Noon Mass and Friday during Lent Great Litany, Via Crucis held in All Saints' Church

SUNDAY March 17 The Fifth Sunday in Lent

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 will meet the end of April

TUESDAY Noon Mass in St. Mary Chapel

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

FRIDAY 11:30am Great Litany

12:00pm Via Crucis

12:40pm Way of Love Lenten Study Group (Rector's Office)

SUNDAY March 24, 2024 The Sunday of the Passion Palm Sunday

10:00am Mass in All Saints' Church People to gather in the Courtyard

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

Recording of Mass available 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