. + J T Notes + Sunday June 28, 2020 +

 **4th Sunday after Pentecost**

*A synopsis of the readings for the coming Sunday, what happened in church last week, any other notable events and a Commemoration of the Church*

This Sunday, June 28, 2020 is the 4th Sunday after Pentecost. In Matthew 10:40-42, when Jesus sends his disciples out as missionaries, he warns them of persecution and hardships they will face. He also promises to reward any who aid his followers and support their ministry. Here is part of the message: when Christ’s Disciples reach out to the less fortunate with a hand of compassion, and with a hand of mercy, and with a hand of acceptance, they are in fact reaching out to Him.
And the wonderful thing about Christ’s teaching is that it does not have to be something big or difficult or beyond our ability. Sometimes it may be just a cold cup of water given in the name of a disciple.
Unfortunately we all can think of many reasons why we cannot be there for our neighbor and be Christ’s Ambassador. Too often when we are offered the opportunity to share Christ’s love we respond that we are too busy, or too tired, or too shy, or too inexperienced to be of any use in the ministry God has given to us.
But God calls us to care for His little ones. And God has given us an example of how we can share His love with others through the gift of His Son.

**Jeremiah 28:5-9*:***Through a symbolic action Jeremiah insisted that Judah and all the surrounding nations should submit to the king of Babylon (Jer. 27). Hananiah contradicted the word of Jeremiah, who in reply insisted that Hananiah’s rosy prediction should not be believed until it came true. God confirmed the word of Jeremiah and sentenced the false prophet Hananiah to death (vv. 16-17).

**Psalm 89:1-4,15-18:** Your love, O Lord, forever will I sing. (Ps. 89:1)

**Romans 6:12-23*:*** Sin is an enslaving power which motivates us to live self-serving, disobedient lives. Sin’s final payoff is death. We, however, have been set free from sin’s slavery to live obediently under God’s grace, whose end is the free gift of eternal life.

**Matthew 10:40-42:** When Jesus sends his disciples out as missionaries, he warns them of persecution and hardships they will face. He also promises to reward any who aid his followers and support their ministry



**Life in Christ Includes Praise and Lament**

Though we may prefer to think of God giving us lives of joy and ease, a full life in Christ also includes sorrow and grief. To the extent we are willing to acknowledge God’s presence in every circumstance, our faith becomes integrated and sustainable through a lifetime.

The texts for today offer a survey of faith-full moments for the people of God, from arguably the most disturbing story in all our scriptures (Genesis 22; semicontinuous series) to the proclamation of God’s everlasting faithfulness (Psalms 89 and 13).

Does our worship have a blind spot? Do we avoid faithful lament?

Marked by transformation as clear and life and death (Romans 6), the disciple naturally embodies the gospel of Jesus Christ. Like it or not, this includes moments of sadness, grief, and betrayal that were very much a part of Jesus’ faithful journey. If our lives are identified with Christ, disciples can name both joys and sorrows as dimensions of Christ’s story and purpose.

The greatest challenge of faith for most Christians is the moment of suffering, so this day invites us to practice faithful lament. In an age of denial when difficult things are swept under the rug, we may resist the idea that God wants anything to do with suffering. Our scriptures, however, ensure we do not avoid earth-bound realities. The psalmist wails a prayer in faith that not only laments abandonment by God but also confesses God’s steadfast love (Psalm 13; semicontinuous series). The story of Abraham and Isaac haunts our imaginations when we expect God to make life easy.

Worship calls us to faithfully lament as well as praise. Let today be a service of full-hearted proclamation of the depths of life in Christ.

**Prayer of the Day**

O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

**What Happened In Church Last Week**

**Held worship outdoors in our picnic grove…….great attendance and very enjoyable….PERFECT weather……glad you all could get there!!!!!!!!**

**Worship this Sunday begins at 9:15 am and continues at that start time through the summmer**

**BUT…….we still are vigilant about the seriousness of this disease and we are adhering to the mandates set forth by health and government officials.**

**We will have a video of these Sunday Worship experiences on our website complete with worship materials and the message for you to follow and join in with us.**

Should you have any questions, please, feel free to call Vicar Jeremiah on his cell 972.839.9363 anytime, or at the office 610.756.6210 as he is there weekdays from 9 am to at least noon.

**We encourage you to continue financially supporting Mt. Zion by mailing in your contributions or by using E-giving.**

**Joshua 1:9 *Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.***

**May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit AMEN.**

**The Church Commemorates**

**Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, died around 202**

**Sunday, June 28, 2020**

This important early church leader tried very hard to hold to the faith handed down by the apostles. An opponent of the movement known as gnosticism, Irenaeus was one of the first to speak of the church as catholic, or linked together.

**See You In Church This Sunday !!!!!! The Lord Be With You**