Fourth Sunday After Trinity, July 5, 2020

Today we gather as a Eucharist Family for the first time since March 15 – it has been 16 long weeks.

Last night the Parochial Church Council met to officially reopen the church building for public worship and to begin the process of equipping this community and this ministry to survive and thrive over the coming generations. We must prayerfully reflect and act with courage and generosity! We must care for what God has given us at The Church of The Holy Innocents – this precious gift, this holy place.

In our Gospel Passage today Jesus points out the excuses people make for not participating in meaningful relationships – a generation of contrary people unable to engage with what is required of the moment.

*We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.*

How can we be so unmoved and unmotivated to participate in the joy and the grief of the life we are living?

Jesus moves on to suggest a dissatisfaction to be found in the people – a desire to criticise no matter what – a damned if you do, damned if you don't approach to finger wagging and complaining.

We are wise if we act with wisdom. Wisdom seems to come from the integration of thought and action, an honesty of feeling and a desire to be in relationship with the moment and with others.

We are left with the image of small gatherings – the children in the market-places; John the Baptist baptising in the wilderness; Jesus eating with tax-collectors and sinners – to this add our own small gathering today. These are glimpses of the church – the Eucharist of the broken hearted, the washing clean of sinners and the calling to ministry in the initiation, the hope and playfulness of children and the promise of future generations progressing – always connected by the Golden Thread running through time.

Jesus confronts the arrogant leaders of the day – the wise and intelligent (is the tone meant to be sarcastic, even mocking?) – and suggests infants are closer to Wisdom – we might say vulnerability and the need to be fed and cared for is what leads to Wisdom and Godliness. We must accept our vulnerability and our reliance on God's daily bread – the generous provision and care. We are reminded of the relationship we are called to enter into – the Dual Nature of Christ – fully human, fully God – the father knowing the Son, the Son knowing the Father – but in Christ a path to knowledge and relationship is revealed – THIS IS THE WAY WE MUST WALK. But first we are infants, we crawl before we walk let alone run. It is a message appropriate for the day.

Our Gospel Passage end with three verses which are among the most beloved in all scripture:

*Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

Today we return – we come back to the Harvest Home to resume our Sacred Work. We return broken to be made whole, fed once more, to be sent out into the field, again and again, to dance and to mourn, to fast and to feast, to enter into the Mystery of the Holy Trinity and to walk The Way of the Cross – to live in the Spirit. We are asked to be changed from weary and burdened (worldly) to rested in body, learned in mind, gentle in spirit, humble in relationship and rested in soul – we enter into Salvation history and we become easy and light – Christ-like.

How do we get from being disconnected, unmoved, unfeeling, self-absorbed, ignorant worldly people – to Disciples of Christ, heirs of God, children of hope?

Our calling is clear – to feel, to be moved, to have compassion, to care for one another, to be willing to be cared for ourselves, to be vulnerable and honest and present – put simply – to show up and be seen – that we may become what we already are in the sight of God – what we are but are not yet.

Join together - There is much work to be done – Blessed are you if you do it!

Remember this one? Here we ae again - A prayer of St Anselm of Canterbury -

O Lord my God.

Teach my heart this day,

Where and how to find you.

You have made me and re-made me,

And you have bestowed on me all the good things I possess,

And still I do not know you.

I have not yet done that for which I was made.

Teach me to seek you,

For I cannot seek you unless you teach me,

Or find you unless you show yourself to me.

Let me seek you in my desire;

Let me desire you in my seeking.

Let me find you by loving you;

Let me love you when I find you.

Amen.