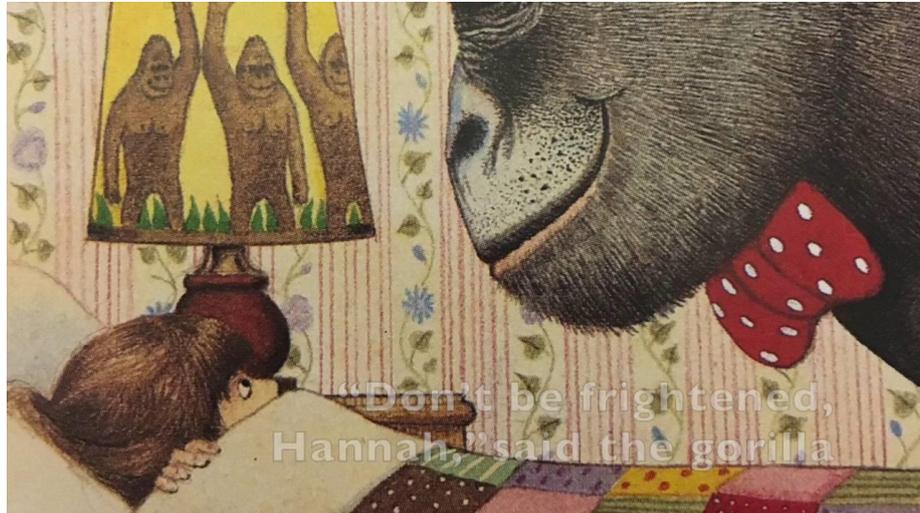




Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost Sunday, September 2nd, 2018

In Celebration of Men



Today the secular calendar celebrates “Father’s Day” and the Christian calendar, the fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost. The theme you may note is however not just about father’s, but about men. The point here is quite simple: that while fatherhood is for many men central to their lives, it is not always the case. Moreover, for all men, father’s or otherwise, there are also other dimensions, other aspects which need to be recognized, in order that life and its living, satisfies. Accordingly, while we celebrate fatherhood, we do so, as a part of the broader whole.

Today we also adapt the readings, so they better reflect the occasion, drawing upon the Gospel for today, but also including an alternative epistle reading: from Galatians, where the apostle Paul, reminds the community of the qualities of the Christian life, reflected in the so-called “fruits of the Spirit”. We also include a story, with the unpromising title, “Gorilla”, but which will surprise you, as a story about a substitute-father who does actually parent little Hannah.

Finally, we have many people participating in our liturgy today: children and parents, children and adults.

Let us celebrate our humanity and God’s goodness to us!

GATHERING

Our Sunday Morning Group members will be handing stickers to the men of our community

Announcements

Greeting

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
The Lord be with you
and also with you

Hymn: Immortal, invisible God (TiS 143, St Denio, Walter Chalmers Smith)

**An Opening Prayer Grounded in the Gospel Reading:
“It’s what goes on inside us that decides what we say and do”**

Dear God,
we know how important it is
 to wash our hands properly,
 and to clean our teeth and finger nails.

But we sometimes neglect
 our slimy thoughts
 our grimy feelings.

We need a good clean up!
 But we find it hard,
 like impossible,
 to do this by ourselves.

Thank you for the Spirit of Jesus
 who washes us thoroughly from grubbiness,
 and cleans us from the grime of evil.

***Please make us clean today,
tomorrow and for ever more.***

Amen

Some Insights about being Men and Fathers

As a storyteller, you have to have something to say, you have to look at the world, think about it in relationship to yourself, and say, 'I think this is a pattern,' or 'I think this is the way fatherhood works,' or 'I think this is the way first love feels.' The danger in that is, that's when you open yourself up to real critique. **Jeff Nichols, Screenwriter**

The surprising thing about fatherhood was finding my inner mush. Now I want to share it with the world.

Christopher Meloni, Actor, "Law and Order"

Everyone's more vulnerable than they seem, and I think men are more vulnerable. I think manhood is fragile. **Alain de Botton, popular philosopher**

My responsibility is always and everywhere the same: to see in my brother more even than the personality and manhood that are his. My task is always and everywhere the same: to see Christ himself.

Trevor Huddleston, English Anglican priest who led the resistance to apartheid, later Archbishop of Mauritius

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

Galatians 5:22-25 (Good News Translation): Sarah

²² But the Spirit produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ humility, and self-control. There is no law against such things as these. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have put to death their human nature with all its passions and desires. ²⁵ The Spirit has given us life; he must also control our lives.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Mark 7:14-15, 21-23 (Good News Translation): Emily

¹⁴ Then Jesus called the crowd to him once more and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand. ¹⁵ There is nothing that goes into you from the outside which can make you ritually unclean. Rather, it is what comes out of you that makes you unclean.” ¹⁶ [c]

²¹ For from the inside, from your heart, come the evil ideas which lead you to do immoral things, to rob, kill, ²² commit adultery, be greedy, and do all sorts of evil things; deceit, indecency, jealousy, slander, pride, and folly— ²³ all these evil things come from inside you and make you unclean.”

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Christ

A Musical Piece: John Loder

A Story about Men and Fatherhood: “Gorilla”: Lena



Some Thoughts about Men, Manhood and Fatherhood

A number of men from our congregation shall reflect with us about their experience and insights

Offering

Doxology

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
praise him, all creatures here below,
praise him above, ye heavenly host,***

praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Prayer of Dedication

EUCCHARIST

Hymn: As man and woman we were made (TiS 645, Sussex Carol, Brian Arthur Wren)

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Let us lift up our hearts.

..... ***We lift them to the Lord.***

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

.....***It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God,
for your love is forever
and you have raised the crucified Christ from the dead.

You created all things and placed Christ as the cornerstone.
You made your grace known to Israel in the wilderness,
and through your prophets you pledged
your everlasting love and constant faithfulness.

You anointed your child, Jesus,
with the Holy Spirit and power,
and he went about doing good
and healing all who were oppressed by evil.
He was put to death, hung on a tree,
but you raised him on the third day,
and allowed him to appear, first to Mary Magdalene

and then to your other chosen witnesses.
So now we praise you within the gates of justice
and raise our glad songs of victory
for you have become our saviour
and hidden our lives in Christ in glory.

Therefore we join with all the company of heaven in their song

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth
are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.***

***Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest***

Through him, in him and because of him,
We affirm the Church's faith

***Christ has died.
Christ has risen.
Christ will come again.***

Institution

Lord's Prayer

Let us say the Lord's Prayer

***Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.***

***Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.***

***For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.***

하늘에 계신 우리 아버지여
이름이 거룩히 여김을 받으시오며
나라이 임하옵시며
뜻이 하늘에서 이룬 것 같이
땅에서도 이루어지이다.
오늘날 우리에게 일용할 양식을 주옵시고
우리가 우리에게
죄 지은 자를 사하여 준 것 같이
우리 죄를 사하여 주옵시고
우리를 시험에 들게 하지 마옵시고
다만 악에서 구하옵소서
대개 나라와 권세와 영광이
아버지께 영원히 있사옵나이다. 아멘

Breaking of the Bread

Christ is the bread of joy
Who shares food with sinners.

Christ is the cup of life,
Who revives the faint-hearted

Let us receive what we are;
Let us become what we receive.

Agnus Dei

Jesus, Wisdom of God,
have mercy on us

Jesus, Word made flesh,
have mercy on us

Jesus, Liberator of creation
grant us peace.

Communion

Distribution

We come forward as a family to partake of the elements together at the Communion Table. The cup on the right-hand side as you face the table is unfermented grape juice and the cup on the left-hand side is alcoholic wine.

Prayer after Communion

God of heaven and earth,
you make us one in Christ.

Inspire us with new vision of the sabbath
becoming a community marked by the freedom to serve.

Give us strength to walk together

In Christ's name

Amen

Prayers of the People

The one who prays ends each petition with the words, "***help us to see***", and the congregational response, "***to read the signs of the times***".

Closing Hymn: O let the Son of God enfold you (TiS 655, Spirit Song, John Wimber)

Blessing and Sending Out

Christ is life!

Let us live
with perception and discernment,
without fear, with imagination and courage

Our service has ended

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

In the name of Christ

**Going Out: Father bless us as we go (TiS 781, Kookaburra,
Robin Mann)**

Musical Postlude

Organist: