

Bible Study
Trinity Sunday, Year C
May 22, 2016

[RCL] Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15; Psalm 8

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

In this section of proverbs we hear an account of wisdom. In the opening lines it is made clear that the message of this proverb is one of great import, something that needs to be heard. Wisdom raises her voice to remind us all of her presence with the works of God. Wisdom has been with God from the beginning of creation. Wisdom was present before the existence of the many works of God and wisdom was witness to the creation of all things. Wisdom is intertwined with the delight of God. Wisdom delights in the inhabited world and therefore delights in us.

- For what purpose do you take a stand, letting wisdom speak through you?
- How might we delight in wisdom?
- What makes known to you the delight that wisdom takes in your being?

Psalm 8

In the Psalm this week God is referred to as “Lord our Governor.” This title calls to mind certain characteristics, inviting us to consider God in a particular way. This God, the governor, is one who reigns over creation. This God holds authority. The psalmist reminds us that God, from this place of authority, has given to human kind responsibility over all creation. For this we are to offer exaltations. God has set humans apart from the rest of creation and of this we must be mindful. Being made in the image of God we reflect the nature of God. God governs us, we govern creation.

- In what ways have you experience God as governor?
- What is your role in taking care of God’s creation?
- How do you offer exaltation for the responsibility that God has bestowed upon you?

Romans 5:1-5

This letter to the Romans provides for us an account of human experience. It lends consideration to faith, hope, suffering, endurance, and character. These parts of life are all interconnected and dependent on one another. By these experiences, we are transformed. In our relationship with Jesus and by the grace of God, we can live fully into both our suffering and our glory. When we are open to experience we can be filled with the love of God.

- How have times of suffering led you to experiencing the love of God?
- What gives you strength to endure through difficulty?
- Where do you see the grace of God working in your life?

John 16:12-15

God is not finished with us. Jesus was not able to say all that needed to be said during his time on earth. Our Gospel text this week reminds us that the truth is continually being revealed to us. The spirit is ever alongside us, leading us into the way of truth and calling us to claim that which is of God. Jesus states “you cannot bear them now.” He knows that sometimes we are not ready for the next challenge. Often we need to catch up with ourselves. We can rest assured that God will be along side us through it all and will reveal all things to us in due time.

- What do you think that Jesus still has to say to you?
- How has the spirit guided you in truth throughout your life?
- How might you be open to what the spirit has to declare to you?

Written by Samantha Haycock

Samantha Haycock is the Director of Children and Youth Ministry at Christ Episcopal Church in Alameda. Her passion in ministry is spreading Jesus' call for social justice and in helping people to make connections between their daily and spiritual lives so that they can bring their whole and authentic selves to the world. Samantha is a banana slug, holding a BA in Psychology from UC Santa Cruz and has a Certificate in Youth and Family Ministry from Bexley Seabury and Forma Faith Formation Academy. She is a participant in the Collaborative for Church Vitality, serves on the Forma Advocacy Working Group, and assists The Episcopal Church DFMS with the youth, young adult, and Sermons that Work online presences. When she is not working Samantha enjoys concocting strange things in her kitchen and hiking all over the place.

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