



February, 2017 – Epiphany 7(A): ‘Do Not Be Afraid to be People of Love’

(excerpted from February 6, 2017 Episcopal News Service article by Mary Francis Schjonberg)

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The emphasis was on both sparking individuals’ faith lives and a commitment to show the love of Jesus beyond the four walls of their churches.

Anchoring Episcopal revivals in the needs of the world was a constant theme of the weekend.



Photo: Mary Frances Schjonberg/Episcopal News Service

“Episcopal Church, we need you to follow Jesus. We need you to be the countercultural people of God who would love one another, who would care when others could care less, who would give, not take,” Presiding Bishop Michael Curry said during his Feb. 5 sermon at Calvary Episcopal Church in the Shadyside neighborhood of Pittsburgh.

For those who think the words Episcopal and revival don’t go together, the size of the crowds, the depth of their emotion and Curry’s insistence begged to differ.

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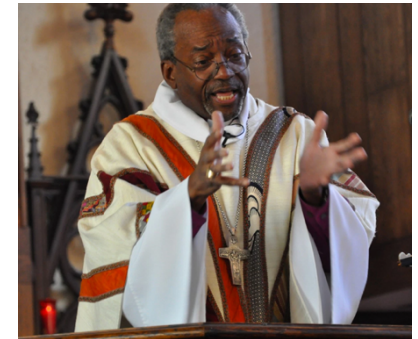


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of God in Jesus in this culture and in this particular time in our national history.”

Curry’s Pilgrimage for Reconciliation, Healing and Evangelism in Southwestern Pennsylvania is the first of six revivals being planned with diocesan teams in different cities around the country and the world this year and in 2018.

“I want to suggest this morning that we need a revival inside the church and out – not just in the Episcopal Church. For there is much that seeks to articulate itself as Christianity that doesn’t look anything like Jesus,” Curry said in his Feb. 4 sermon during an Absalom Jones Day Eucharist at the Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross. “And if it doesn’t walk and talk and look and smell like Jesus, it’s not Christian ... and if it’s going to look like Jesus, it’s got to look like love.”

Curry said the revival of the church, centered in God’s love, is not about a church rejuvenated for its own sake. The church’s revival must spill God’s love out into the world “until justice rolls down like a mighty stream,” he said, echoing Micah.

The other revivals are planned for May 5-7 in Diocese of West Missouri; Sept. 23-24, Diocese of Georgia, Nov. 17-19, Diocese of San Joaquin (California) and April 6-8, 2018, Diocese of Honduras. A joint evangelism mission is planned in July 2018 with the Church of England. Most will be multiday events that feature dynamic worship and preaching, offerings from local artists and musicians, personal testimony and storytelling, speakers, invitations to local social action, engagement with young leaders, and intentional outreach with people who aren’t active in a faith community.

Read the full article and more about upcoming revivals on Episcopal News Service: <http://bit.ly/2kKelmz>.

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