

The Abundant Lite

August 27, 2015

For Sunday August 30th

A Message from the Rector

Arise My Love

This week's reading from the Hebrew Scriptures is one of only two that have no mention of God. (Esther is the other.) However, it is a celebration of love, human love. The content is a series of poems about a woman and a man longing for one another.

This is the only reading from the Song of Solomon we read on Sundays, although there is another passage that is available for weddings. The passage is full of images from nature: stags and turtle doves, figs and vines, blossoms and their fragrances. This is a very earthy and sensual book.

When confronted with scripture that does not fit with some generalized assumptions, one response is to take a step back and see it as a metaphor or develop an allegory. "Our love for God is LIKE the longing of a betrothed woman for her husband." Or something like that.

Some commentators reflect this, but at least a few resist the immediate transfer to the divine metaphor and insist that these poems are a grounded celebration of human intimacy and love. [1]Alphoneta Wines The Bible celebrates human love and intimacy. Sound, site, taste, and smell are all senses which are called upon to build the connection that comes to mind when one thinks of their beloved. How many of us have a "favorite song" or "special meal" that connects us to our beloved in an immediate way? It requires no thought, but raises up one, if not many, memories and can transport us.

This set of beautiful, earthy, and sensual poems reminds us that the Christian Community we celebrate and desire is made of beautiful folk, who have intimacies, memories, culture, and real flesh. While the specifics of each are different, the humanity is the same.

Join in worship as each celebrates our full humanity, as a community we

celebrate our mission, and as the beloved of God respond with thanks and praise.

Fr. Andrew

Featured Scripture

Song of Solomon 2:8-13 (NRSV)

The voice of my beloved! Look, he comes, leaping upon the mountains, bounding over the hills. My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Look, there he stands behind our wall, gazing in at the windows, looking through the lattice. My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away."

Help Others Beat the Heat

Help Others Beat the Heat - This summer, St. Paul's is helping our brothers and sisters in need to find relief from the heat. In collaboration with the Social Justice Team, St. Paul's has purchased and is distributing free bus passes to clients of Well in the Desert, and others, so they can have access to the cooling center, showers, bingo and crafts workshops. If you would like to contribute, please make checks payable to "Church of St. Paul in the Desert", with "bus passes/Social Justice" in the memo line. Or, put cash in an envelope, identified in the same way, and place it in the offering plate.

Faith Formation

"Sunday Mornings at 9:15 AM

Episcopal Café returns in The Chapel"

8/30 If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem.
Led by Louisa Young-Caffrey. [2]Read about it here

9/6 How Do I Address A Conflicting Belief With My Neighbor?

No website preview-handout given at session.

Led by Alan Zimmerman.

9/13 Getting Beyond Hateful Acts & Labels-Part 1.

Led by Br. John Charles.

9/20 Getting Beyond Hateful Acts & Labels-Part 2.

Led by Craig Ewing. [3]Read about it here.

9/27 Can Mindfulness Reduce Racism?

Led by Br. John Charles. [4]Read about it here.

"Tuesdays at 7:00 PM in the Library"

Tuesday evening Adult Faith Building sessions resume on September 8th at 7 PM with a series on "DeMystifying the Book of Revelation".

9/1 Apocalyptic Literature and How to "Read" It.

Led by Rev. Canon David Caffrey.

9/8 What Inspired Revelation's Author?

Led by Rev. Canon Victoria Hatch.

9/15 Basics: Who wrote Revelation? When?

What does the Book say?

Led by Craig Ewing.

9/22 What Makes this Book So Attractive to So Many?

Led by Br. John Charles.

9/29 The Erroneous "End of the World" Interpretation.

Led by Jerry Di Noto.

Baked Goods Donations for

ROY'S DESERT RESOURCE CENTER

St. Paul's ongoing outreach to the homeless at Roy's Desert Resource Center needs donations of cookies, cakes and other baked treats for our Monday night dessert service at the North Palm Springs facility. Homemade items are especially popular and appreciated. You can bring donations with you to church and leave them with an usher before the service. For more

information, contact Chris Kelly – (760) 406-2978. Thanks for your help.

At the Church of St. Paul in the Desert

. . . we welcome all worshipers to a place free of violence, bullying, and abuse. Physical, verbal or emotional violence against others or against oneself is not acceptable because of our understanding of what it means to follow Jesus. Please let Jesus' command to love your neighbor as yourself be your guide.

A WELCOMING, EMPOWERING, SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY

Our mission statement calls us to be “a welcoming, empowering and supportive community.” We are currently forming a new ministry at St Paul’s to support that mission. Volunteers are needed from all three services to donate approximately 90 minutes of their time per month. That time is split into 3-30 minute segments: 30 minutes before and 30 minutes after the service you attend, once per month, to support the Welcoming Table located in the Narthex and another 30 minutes a month assisting with name badge organization. If you are able to lend a hand, please contact Mike Funke at 760.-409.0986 or mike.funke@yahoo.com!

Help us live our mission statement!

Bullying Behavior Not Welcome Here

At St. Paul in the Desert we welcome all worshipers to a place that is free of violence and bullying.

Physical, verbal or emotional violence against others or against oneself is not acceptable.

[5]"It Gets Better" is a series of video messages to encourage Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, or Transgender youth and let them know that they are loved as they are.

[6]"A Blessing for Those Who Are Bullied" was written by the Rt. Rev. Steven Charleston, a Bishop of the Episcopal Church.

It is not enough to say "NO" to bullies. It is important to stand up for people and to provide resources for those who have been the targets.

Announcements

Need to Print a Copy of

The Abundant Lite?

[7]Click here to receive a Printer Friendly (text only) version[8].

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The church office is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm with a lunch break from 11:30 am until 1:00 pm.

Please observe that the office is not open for walk-ins on Mondays. If you call, please leave a message. In case of emergencies, a priest will return your call.

AN OPEN INVITATION

All Altar Guild and Altar Ministers, and any parishioners who may be interested in joining one of these ministries, are cordially invited to a gathering for fellowship and refreshment at the home of Richard Wells on Sunday, September 13th at 5:00 pm. Watch this space for more details in coming weeks.

COME AND

BRING A

JOYFUL VOICE

Soon it will be September - when St. Paul's Parish Choir reassembles for weekly rehearsals. Wednesday, September 16, 7-8:30 pm is the time, and the choir room of the Parish Hall is the place. If you'd like to join the choir this fall, please contact Meg Irwin-Brandon prior to the rehearsal. Meg will serve as Interim Director for Nathan Ensign, through October. She can be reached at 413-285-6881 or mibrandon@verizon.net. Newcomers are welcome!

SAVE THE DATES

Saturday and Sunday, October 10 & 11, Diocesan Day of Service, following the 4:00 pm, 8:00 am and 10:30 am services.

Sunday, October 18th, St. Paul's Parish Open House and Ministry Fair, between the 8 am and 10:30 am services and following the 10:30 am service.

Details to follow!

HOLY COMMUNION

SERVICE

FOR

LOCAL CARE FACILITIES

Holy Communion at Windsor Court, 201 South Sunrise Way, Palm Springs, is hosted by the Nursing Home Ministry on the second Wednesday of the month, next, on September 9th, at 10:15am. The Presiding Priest always welcomes assistance from parishioners.

COFFEE HOUR CELEBRATION

Today's coffee hour following the 8:00 am service is hosted by Barry Hagenbuch and Robert Woods.

There are several Sunday hospitality opportunities available through the end of the year. Please consider hosting a Coffee Hour after the 8:00 or 10:30 services with family or friends. Sign-up binders are on the large table on the right as you enter the Parish Hall.

If you have questions, call Ray or Cheryl Kelley at 760.778.1725.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry invites you to join our circle on Wednesday's from 10am -1pm in Hogarth Hall. Whether you wish to learn to knit or crochet or are an expert needleworker, we welcome you. Needles, hooks and yarn are provided. Please drop in to create and enjoy our prayerfully made creations.

Episcopalians Against

Gun Violence

... is an ad-hoc group of bishops, clergy and lay people disseminating information about Episcopalians who are working, collectively and individually, to curb gun violence. For further information, click [9]here.

REPORT MISCONDUCT

As part of our ongoing commitment to creating a safe haven for everyone, our diocese trains people in the prevention of misconduct and encourages all to report misconduct. All reported incidents are taken seriously and investigated thoroughly and confidentially. If you believe you have experienced misconduct of any kind, please contact the John Seitman, at jseitman@pacbell.net or 858-793-4426.

References

1. https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=2612
2. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/karen-fleshman/white-people-if-youre-not-part-of-the-solution-youre-part-of-the-problem_b_7665452.html
3. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/robert-v-taylor/get-beyond-hateful-acts-a_b_7764188.html
4. <http://www.tutufoundationusa.org/2015/08/can-mindfulness-reduce-racism/>
5. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mPZ5eUrNF24>
6. <http://scg-wakeupcall.blogspot.com/2010/10/blessing-for-those-who-are-bullied.html>
7. <http://stpaulsps.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/The-Abundant-Lite-August-20-2015.pdf>
8. <http://stpaulsps.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/The-Abundant-Lite-August-20-2015.pdf>
9. <http://www.facebook.com/EpiscopaliansAgainstGunViolence>