

Trinity News

August 22, 2010

Pentecost 13. Waiting on God

One of Samuel Beckett's most famous works is "Waiting for Godot." Godot never comes, but waiting has a lot to do with life and with God.

"Marana Tha", O Lord, come! is both a scriptural saying and an ancient Christian invocation at the liturgy of the Eucharist.

A Chinese classic says: "Those who know do not speak; those who speak do not know".

This is true of deep worship and prayer.

"Be still and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations. I will be exalted on the earth" (Psalm 46:10).

Worship is not all sound. It also requires silence in the soul.

Being still is very difficult. Staying in focus throughout the stillness is even more difficult.

The Latin Vulgate says at Psalm 46:10, "Take a vacation (vacate) and let God be God."

Prayer is not words only. We also need spaces in which to listen to the 'still, small voice' of God.

This is not just the persistent whisper of the conscience. It is the resounding whisper of God.

Silence is space in which intuition grounded in experience is allowed to prompt us.

We do not always have auditory sensations within, but a sense of the rightness of a decision or plan, when it is persistent, may well be prompting of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit cannot sanction anything that is wrongheaded or potentially destructive. Don't go to a fortune teller: spend time in your interior chapel listening for the promptings of God.

This includes deep trust: “Therefore since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us have grace through which we can offer acceptable worship to God with reverence and awe” (Hebrews 12:28-29).

The pyramids of Egypt are striking silhouettes on the horizon which remind us of the search for lasting assurance. We are “shaken” over and over by things that happen in our life. The Pharaohs gave themselves divine titles, but they were still like us, yearning to find answers for the tough questions about life’s meaning that surfaced with haunting regularity in their souls.

The pyramids of Egypt are striking silhouettes on the horizon which remind us of the search for lasting assurance. We are “shaken” over and over by things that happen in our life. The Pharaohs gave themselves divine titles, but they were still like us, yearning to find answers for the tough questions about life’s meaning that surfaced with haunting regularity in their souls.

Paul says that permanence of human destiny is “hid with Christ in God.” That is, Christ is the key to the doors of the eternal habitations and the entry to our own abiding identity.

“Let us have grace” in connection with “acceptable worship” reminds us that we need to be very aware of God’s grace when we come to worship. We tend to call it “going to church”. Certainly, we join those who come to worship in a place set apart as church. But worship itself is ceremony and ritual, symbols, and even dance. ‘Ceremonies’ refer to the actions of the liturgy and ‘ritual’ to the liturgical texts, though the distinction is often blurred. Worship requires content, but a building can stand alone and empty.

“The Spirit gives life” to the human spirit in worship.

“Reverence and awe” are wonderful words and the worship of God is not real without what they signify.

“People actually fear becoming a channel of cosmic love, for fear of being asked to love too much and too many. Your soul knows exactly what I am describing. Take a deep breath and ask your soul how it would handle a transcendent love” (Caroline Myss).

I love the words of the Imitation of Christ: “The road we must walk is not always of our own choosing. It belongs to God”. Amen.

Bishop Arthur Jones

THIS WEEK:

Tuesday, August 24.

- Bible Study, 10am
- Bible Study, 7:15pm (at the Tuttons, #3 Sta Potenciana, Urdaneta Village, Makati)

Thursday, August 26.

- Eucharist, 9am, Chapel

TO PLAN:

September 2. FREE Concert
University of the East Chorale,
8pm.)

September 5. Sunday School starts
(registration forms now available)

November 7. Confirmation at the
9:30 service.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Ecclesiasticus 10:12-18

Psalms 112

Hebrews 13:1-8

Luke 14:1,7-14

Your prayers are asked in our healing ministry for Diana Croyston, JPeter, Beryl Tanner, Ron Thoburn, Suzanne Jacobson, Cena Quiapos, Ron Jacob, Benjie Gonzales, Bonnie SyCip, Fidelia Matthews, Jovel Llagas, Loy Solasco, Ema Duhaylongsod, Ted Whale, Emerinciana Gatela, Augusto Natividad, Avelina Collado, Amy Gonzales, Eric Williamson, Carlyn-Fern Manning, Richard Kendall, Johnny Manning Jr, Carrie Angus, Jaqueline Acquiatan, Janet Johnstone, Susan Dalmas, Sunny Cabanang, Gloria Domingo, Richard Biteng, Katsi Araneta, Valerie Jones.

	Last Sunday	Year-to- date	Proportionate Budget	2010 Budget
Pledge	P101,700.00	P2,573,908.48	P2,475,000.00	P3,900,000.00
Loose Plate	P16,920.00	P569,716.03	P596,538.46	P940,000.00

The church's monthly *Sources & Uses* report is available for viewing in the Church Office. Please look for Maricel. For questions, feel free to email Edison at edisonyap@gmail.com