



THE MESSENGER

OF ST. PETER'S PARISH, OAKLAND, CA

August, 2020

The Rev. Michael Mautner, Rector

St. Peter's Calendar

St. Peter's continues with outdoor and online services under government restrictions until further notice.

❖ Canceled Synod of the Diocese of the Western States, St. Augustine of Canterbury, Chico

From our Rector:

A Brief Reflection on Race

Independence Day is always a good time to reflect on our country's present challenges in light of the Gospel. This year it was especially so. On Memorial Day, four Minneapolis police officers, sworn to serve and protect all in that great city, committed a homicide. Technology let the whole world witness Mr. George Floyd's death practically in real time. Recent similar incidents have given a context to this horror that some may find hard to face. No matter. As Americans, we must all face it. Together.

Working through the many issues in our communities that involve race and policing will not be easy, but civic engagement is one of the hallmarks of Anglicanism. We are patriots. Duty, honor, and love of God and country ought to lead us now toward principled, biblically based reflection about these matters.

In personal conversations with our Black brothers and sisters in Christ, we will learn that our experiences, and hence our perspectives, often differ. That's okay. That's why we need to have those conversations. Reasonable Christian minds may disagree about approaches and policies, emphases and means. The *end* of our civic engagement on these issue, though, its *aim*, must be Christ-centered and grounded in His Word.

Galatians 3:28-29 is especially relevant: "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus." These words of the Blessed Apostle Paul have always been in our Bibles. Their present import, however, many in the Church have too often ignored. Our Unity in Christ is a sham, a lie, if it exists only in church and for just an hour a week. We have to bring it home with us. We are commanded to live it. Always and everywhere.

"In Christ there is no East or West," (1940 Hymnal #263). Neither is there Black or White. Or, at least, there shouldn't be. There's not supposed to be. God created only one "race," the Human Race, and it was for *all* of us that Christ our Savior gave His life upon the Cross. It was "for the sins of the *whole world*" that He died and rose again. That means every single human

being. The Church hasn't said so often enough or loudly enough. We need to change that.

Of course, Equality doesn't mean we're *identical*. Historical experience matters to who we are in the present. That's why "remembrance" is such a key Christian concept, and such a vital part of our sacrament. We remember the night in which He was betrayed. We remember that he said, "What you do to the least of these, you have done it unto me." *Matthew 25:40*.

We need also to remember that the African American historical experience has been unique among "the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues," as the Prayerbook describes the American tapestry (BCP 1928, page 36: *For Our Country*). That experience matters today and it matters for what we do in our country going forward.

Growing up Jewish, certain sets of words from American history were very meaningful to me as a member of a minority group. Here's one, a quote from a letter George Washington wrote to the Newport, Rhode Island Synagogue, August 18, 1790:

"For happily the Government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance requires only that they who live under its protection should demean themselves as good citizens, in giving it on all occasions their effectual support."

For all the greatness of these words, President Washington failed to live them out fully on his own Virginia plantation during his lifetime. Today, every American lives with the legacy of that lost opportunity.

Acknowledging this denigrates the Founders' *not at all*. Theirs were great Christian minds, but they left us a Republic, as Benjamin Franklin said, "*If you* can keep it." It's not on them anymore. It's on us. Keeping our Republic now means living out the *full* Christian meaning of America's creed as the Founders in their generation did not and, perhaps, could not.

In pursuit of this, let's take two additional scriptures more seriously in our daily lives and relationships.

Leviticus 25:10: "Proclaim liberty throughout the land and unto all the inhabitants thereof!" We know this one. It's on the Liberty Bell.

Deuteronomy 16:18–20, we should know, but maybe don't, at least not as well as we should: "Justice, justice shall you pursue, that you may thrive and occupy the land that *the LORD* your God is giving you."

Without Justice for all, there is no Liberty. Not really. We cannot proclaim liberty for all while being silent to injustice in our midst. Justice for *some* isn't good enough. *Many* isn't good enough. Even *most*, while getting there, shouldn't be good enough. Not for us. Not for the Body of Christ living in the world, and not for us as Americans.

It's got to be all: "With Liberty *and* Justice for *all*." That has a familiar ring to it, doesn't it? Let's each of us do all that we can – as churchmen and as citizens - to make it a living reality. Now.

Yours in Christ Jesus, Our Lord,

M+

Sunday Mass July 10, 2020



St. Peter's Sign Frame Finished



Michael “Mikey” Kingshill repaired the church sign that was wrecked by the May 2nd car accident. Mikey and Junior Warden Bud Warder installed the repaired frame July 13th (with help from a friend of Mikey’s). The new sign itself will fit into the side and bottom U channels of the frame. The concrete pad will be covered by fresh soil. Ω

Better Internet Connection Established

Comcast just completed installation of a second POE Wi-Fi transmitter in the Sanctuary area just behind the Sanctuary south door. The St Peter’s 2 network now has a 3/3 strength in the Sanctuary and about rows 1-10 of the nave seating. It drops to 2/3 and then 1/3 at the entry doors. The St Peters 2 network is 3/3 in the Social Hall. The St Peters 2 network password is: Guest1928. Ω

Regular Weekly Services

Sunday: 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion
4:30 p.m. Holy Communion on Internet (Zoom)
Thursday 7:00-8:00 p.m. Scripture Class
Confessions by appointment.

Contact Us

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Vestry

Senior Warden:	Conrad Sweeting	Gil Collins	Monty Stanford
Junior Warden:	Gordon "Bud" Warder	Gill Daley	Matt Thompson
	Jennifer Longworth		

Treasurer (Non-vestry): Cary Binkley

Clerk (Non-vestry): Eugenia Larson

WELCOME: We welcome single people as well as families and children to Saint Peter's. Nursery is provided for babies through age two. Church School instruction is provided for age three through twelve. Teens are welcome to help out as volunteers in the Nursery or in the Sunday School. For more information, please pick up a brochure in the narthex or contact the Church School Superintendent, Eliza Kirkpatrick at elizakirkpatrick@gmail.com.

The Messenger may be viewed online at the St. Peter's web site:
<http://www.saintpetersoakland.com/>