



Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast May 17, 2020

“The Lord of the world does not live in shrines made by human hands.”

Sixth Sunday of Easter Readings from the Revised Common Lectionary, Year A

- Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:7-18; I Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21
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Acts 17.22: [Paul said] “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’”

John 17:7-8,11: [Jesus said] “I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth...”

“Not a sermon” . . .

According to the church calendar, in the next two weeks, two important things happen: Jesus ascends into heaven (Ascension Day, May 21) and the Holy Spirit comes to Earth (Day of Pentecost, May 31). The readings for this Sunday and next anticipate those events, especially the first readings from Acts and the Gospel of John. We begin to follow that story today.

The reading from Acts always attracts attention. Imagine the scene: Paul is preaching in front of the Areopagus, an ancient meeting site (see below), in Athens, telling people he’s amazed at how religious they are. Why, they even have an altar “To an unknown god” in case they’ve missed one!



Religious scholars say that Paul’s most effective approach to the “pagan” converts was to point out that their “gods,” made of stone or wood, were dead material. But the God of People of the Way was alive, and not only that, but God had brought Jesus back to life. This God

was present and active in the world, available to all. No need for altars to unknown gods made of stone. [Acts 17.24] “The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands,..” but lives in us. Amen.

This Week Special Prayers for . . .

- communities in New York, especially the North Country, who are beginning to open up from the pandemic; all who have died and those suffering from the COVID-19 virus; all healthcare workers; all providing essential services in our communities, and all those who have lost jobs and income and are facing an uncertain future.

A reminder: You can access all “Blasts,” Newsletters, and videos through the Raquette Lake Chapel website at <http://www.raquettelakechapel.org/>

and scripture for Sunday can be found on <http://www.lectionarypage.net/>
Blessings! - Vance
