



Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast June 21, 2020

Note on the Readings: as you ponder this week's readings, listen for the Biblical dynamics of threat and promise.

Readings for the 3rd Sunday After Pentecost

Genesis 21:8-21: After Issac is born, Sarah sends Hagar and her son Ishmael away.

Psalms 86:1-10, 16-17: a characteristic psalm of petitions to God.

Romans 6:1b-11: Paul has insisted that God gives grace to Christians purely as a matter of love and without expectation of being paid back. See "Not a Sermon" below.

Matthew 10:24-39: An involved series of commissions and words as Jesus urges his disciples to continue his mission in the world. There are many challenging, well-known sayings in this reading (like "do not think I have come to bring peace to the earth...")

Not a sermon...

Years ago, a men's group I belonged to started watching a series of videos prepared by N.T. Wright, the former Anglican Bishop of Durham in the UK. There were five hour-long presentations about Paul's Letter to the Romans, which arguably is one of the most complicated yet well-known treatises on Christianity. But we stopped after two presentations: they were simply "too much to absorb!" Yet, if I were going to attempt to explain Christianity to someone completely unfamiliar with it, I would probably turn to Romans, as well as the Gospels. As I reread this Sunday's scripture from Romans, it seemed like this could almost be a creed (or part of one):

We believe....

- ... we who died to sin will not go on living in it.
- ... as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we walk in newness of life.
- ... we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.
- ... our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed.
- ... we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin.
- ... we have died with Christ, and we will also live with him.
- ... that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again.
- ... by the death he died, he died to sin, once for all.
- ... the life he lives, he lives to God.
- ... we also consider ourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

May it be so. AMEN!

-Blessings, Vance

We continue to pray for the Raquette Lake Community working to prepare for the summer season, especially Jim, and those who worry about their economic futures. Thanks for Fr. Rick's return home. Prayers for Franny's continued recovery.
