

Wednesday, March 25, 2020

the Annunciation of Our Lord

Pour your grace into our hearts, O Lord, that we who have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ, announced by an angel to the Virgin Mary, may by his cross and passion be brought to the glory of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. (BCP, p 240)

Oh, what a day to worship the Lord. Join Mary in her words as she hears the news she is to be the mother of our Lord – *“Yes, I see it all now: I’m the Lord’s maid, ready to serve. Let it be with me just as you say.”* How her innocent heart must have filled with love as did her womb. Yes, it is truly a day to worship.

For the last several days, I had been mourning the loss of not worshipping together. On Monday, the 23rd, I had a devotion from Fr. Ron Drummond, priest at St. Stephen Anglican Church in Hurst, TX, entitled “The Inefficiency of Worship.” Fr. Ron is one our kids, having traveled with our ministry for many years as a youth, a young adult, and lastly, as an ordained priest, who is truly gifted with words and wisdom. He spoke that our call, our main call, as a church is to worship. And what is worship? It is times of deep adoration and praise for who God is and what He has done. So whether we are together or apart, our call is to worship the God of all creation. To sing out His praises wherever we are. And what freedom we now have: we can shout in our living rooms, sing off-key, dance before Him all in our PJ’s!

If you are on FaceBook, you might have noticed how many are now posting and leading Morning Prayer on line as well as celebrating the Eucharist. I have been able to catch many of my seminary classmates on FB and YouTube as they encourage not just their sheep but those of us who spend time scrolling through. Bishop Robert Barron, a Roman Catholic priest, offers daily mass as well as a daily devotional (wordonfire.org). His sermon on John last Sunday gave me much to ponder this week, inviting us to see the four interruptions of the Gospel of John during Lent in Lectionary A as John writing an icon. We have the overall picture, then we look closer to the detail. Mud – matter and humanity; Jesus’ spit, saliva, divinity. Humanity and divinity mixed together to open the man’s eyes. Healing and sight restored. Yes, that is our Jesus – coming to where we are, to reveal His divinity, touching us, healing us, working in and through each of us, and calling us to worship God, the Triune God.

Yesterday, I heard a new song, “Waymaker”. I found myself humming this throughout the day: Waymaker, Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper, Light in the darkness. My God, that is who You are.” I needed to be reminded that

*You are here Moving in our midst
I worship You, I worship You
You are here Working in this place
I worship You, I worship You
Waymaker Miracle Worker
Promise Keeper Light in the Darkness
My God that is who You are*

*You are here Touching every heart.
I worship You, I worship You
You are here, healing every heart.
I worship You, I worship You*

*even when I can't see it, You are working
even when I can't feel it, You're working.
You never stop, You never stop working
You never stop, You never stop working*

(lyrics "Waymaker", Michael W. Smith)

This morning I discovered yet another opportunity to worship. Michael W. Smith offered a video of live worship which took place in his home on Sunday. I was almost immediately drawn into His presence, soaking in the music and words. I found myself singing and on my knees as the words: "This is the air I breathe, this is the air I breathe, your holy presence living in me.... And I'm desperate for You." I did not know how desperate I was for Him to draw me into His presence. I am still wondering and basking in that time of worship this morning.

For four days, the Lord has been calling me to a time of worship. I am slow to respond but today He got me. We can worship anywhere, joining our praises with angels and archangels, with those we see and those we see only in our mind eyes. As I worshiped this morning, I saw each of you, and giving thanks to God for such a time of this. A time to be totally dependent upon the One who made it all; the One who gave us His Son so that we could be forgiven. We are loved beyond measure. Thank you God, for reminding me just who I am and who You are.

Until we worship together physically, let us worship together in Spirit and in truth. Keep on washing your hands and be safe.

Judith+