



The Shepherd's Voice

February 26, 2013

By Fr. Joe Rees

“Absolute Truth”

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

--John 16:13

The Good Shepherd teaches us to obey the absolute truths given to us by God. And there are absolute truths! After Jesus had done a phenomenal miracle of casting out a demon, some in the crowd (urged on by the opposition to Jesus) shouted, “He casts out demons by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons.” But Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, “Any kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and a house divided against itself falls. If Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand?” This is an absolute truth...that any ‘kingdom’ divided against itself will fall and especially those that are invaded by demonic activity. It applies to churches too. It’s a fascinating section of Scripture that Jesus spends a good portion of teaching to explain the reality of demonic activity that can attack the faithful and often bring about their fall. Hearing such profound truth from Jesus, one of the woman bystanders there, calls out “Blessed is the womb that bore You and the breasts at which You nursed.” To which Jesus replies, “On the contrary, blessed are those who **hear the Word of God and obey it!**” (Lk 11:27-28). There is a truth connection here. The word of Jesus is the Word of God. The Word sets people free from demonic attack. As Jesus often said, “Get behind me Satan!” This means that when we use Jesus’ authority in His Name then Satan is defeated! We must realize the power we really have in the Word of God.

The former church we dealt with (TEC) became divided over the authority of Scripture. The word of the church became the word of the world. The

culture dictated how we were to receive God’s Word. But, we recognized that what Jesus spoke was the Truth and that it is to be obeyed and kept free from deceit. Our own Bishop Bill Thompson has said, “We must always keep our guard up against distortions in preaching the pure Word of God. We would err if we made the slightest departure from the truth of the Word.” How true that is! We must continue obeying God’s Word here at Grace, our diocese, and in the Anglican Church of North America. The former house was divided because truth to them was “pluriform”, according to their former presiding bishop. That meant there could be many truths, one for you, one for me, one for all the others; and if it works for them then it is good, even though at its core it was what we always believed was absolutely contrary to the will of God in His Word. So, someone could believe that Jesus really never said these words and that He really didn’t physically rise from the dead. Nonsense! This is what the enemy had hoped to do...set into the life of a church on earth the lie and that they would believe it. (Just like Fr. David said in the sermon this past Sunday) Thus, the fall of that church will be completed one day because it will fail on the denial of the power of God’s Word to say who Jesus is to a chaotic world filled with moral anarchy. Jesus clearly says, “Blessed are those who hear and obey God’s Word!” He is the epitome of the truth because He is God’s Word incarnate. He is God in the flesh! So when we obey the Word, then we’re obeying Jesus; we are obeying God and we are approved and most pleasing to God. He blesses us! Want to really be blessed? Obey the Word of the Lord! Then, Satan won’t have any way to cripple us or bring us down. I urge you to use the Word of God to defend against the enemy’s assaults on us. The Word bars the doors of our minds to the enemy’s advances. So, keep the faith, and get into the Word of God, keep it close to you, and listen to what God is saying to you, and obey. As your pastor, I am deeply committed that we obey the

Word of God...starting with me. I'm praying for you 'to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest' the Word of God. Need help...I'll be glad to...come into a small group and learn of God's Word.

His Peace be with you,
Fr. Joe

Sunday Servers this week...

March 3, 2013		8:00 a.m. Service	10:15 a.m. Service
First Reader	Exodus 3:1-15	Jani Dubski	Stephen Painter
Psalm Reader	Psalm 103	Choir	Frances Slaughter
Second Reader	1 Corinthians 10:1-13	Paula Sholly	Cline Handy
Intercessor		Mitch Dubski	Rob Ackerman
Lay Euch. Ministers		Kay Focke, Richard Rieder	Cline Handy, KC Winward
Acolytes		Mitch Dubski	Rob A (C); Dasiahmarie V (T1); Kai C (T2)
Welcomers		Maureen Green, Cheryl Martel	Cheryl Martel, Paula Sholly
Ushers		Dick Sholly, David Green	Dink Nash, Ted Vallas, JR Fox, Ray Seibold
Vestry Person of Day	Richard Rieder		
Healing Ministers		Alfred Focke, Jane Rost	Connie Fowle, Ann Fox
Announcer		Trish Stewart	JR Fox

Guest preacher on Sunday

Fr. Larry Bausch, Rector of Holy Trinity Parish of Ocean Beach in San Diego will be our guest preacher as he "swaps pulpits" with Fr. Joe this Sunday. For a little background information on Fr. Larry, see the letter attached to the email today. Fr. Larry wrote the letter back in 2006 when there was much turmoil in the church. It's a very interesting and informative read.

Tuesdays in January and Beyond

Feb. 26-Mar. 19th

Donna Brayton's life-changing course on the Sermon on the Mount will resume on February 26 with a potluck @ 6:30PM. This is Jesus' powerful teaching on how to live as a truly committed follower of Christ in community with others. Come at 6:30 p.m. with food to share and stay for this wonderful series at 7:00 p.m.

Let's attend the upcoming Christian Youth Theater production: FOOTLOOSE

Footloose celebrates the wisdom of listening to young people, guiding them with a warm heart and an open mind. Our own **Kaylie Manville** will be Vi Moore, the pastor's wife. (This is her last CYT performance as a high school senior!)

Showtimes: Saturday, Mar. 2 at 2pm and 7pm; Sunday, Mar. 3 at 2 pm; Saturday, Mar. 9 at 2 pm and 7 pm and **Sunday, Mar. 10 at 2 pm.**

Location: Star Theatre @ 402 North Coast highway, Oceanside, CA 92054

We can purchase a block of 10 tickets @ \$10/person for our church family...for multiple dates and times. Most of us are attending on March 10 @2PM.

Contact Sue Bentley @ 760.445.4049 or SusanBentley@roadrunner.com to order your tickets today! ***This is a wonderful way to support our youth and families in our community.***

Sunday at Grace

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Choir
9:30 a.m. Coffee & questions
for Fr. Bausch
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist
with Worship Team.

Fr. Larry Bausch,
Rector of Holy Trinity
Anglican Church will
be preaching this
Sunday.

Readings for Sunday

Exodus 3:1-15

Psalms 103

I Corinthians 10:1-13

Luke 13:1-9

We are using the English Standard
Version of the Bible and the Lectionary
from the Book of Common Prayer
(Year C)

This Week at Grace –Feb. 26 –Mar. 5, 2013

Tues. February 26

11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study
4:30 p.m. Healing Prayer & Eucharist at CHC
6:30 p.m. Lenten Potluck Soup Supper
7:00 p.m. Donna Brayton's Class

Wed February 27

8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer & Eucharist
9:30 a.m. No Staff Meeting
3:30 p.m. **Alpha Club for Kids**
6:30 p.m. Youth Group

Thurs. February 28

7:00 a.m. Bible Study
10:00 a.m. Sr. Women's Fellowship
11:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist at the Oasis
7:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal

Fri. March 1

Fr. Joe's day off
6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer & Eucharist at Grace

Sat. March 2

8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship – Suite T
8:00 a.m. Cursillo Secretariat meets
11:00 a.m. Yuma Cursillo Team meets

Sun. March 3

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with choir
10:00 a.m. Nursery Opens
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Worship Team
10:15 a.m. Children's Church

Mon. March 4

6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer

Tues. March 5

11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study
4:30 p.m. Healing Prayer & Eucharist at CHC
6:30 p.m. Potluck Fellowship Soup Supper
7:00 p.m. Donna Brayton's Class

Rector's Bible Study

Tuesdays

11:30 a.m.

Fr. Joe is leading the group through a study of
the Book of Isaiah. Everyone is welcome.
B.Y.O.L. (Bring your own lunch)

Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m.
Morning Prayer At Grace Anglican
All are welcome to attend.

Weekly – There are over 25 small groups meeting
during the week. Check our newsletter for a list of
all the groups or you can find the list on our website:
www.graceanglicanchurch.com.

Save the date!

Feb. 26 Donna Brayton's Class
Mar. 2 Cursillo Secretariat at Grace – 8-11 a.m.
Mar. 2 Yuma Cursillo Team at Grace 11-5
Mar. 5 Donna Brayton's Class
Mar. 9 Prayers & Squares – 9:30 a.m.
Mar. 9 Daylight Savings Time –set clocks forward.
Mar. 10 One Service Sunday – 9:00 a.m.
Mar. 12 Donna Brayton's Class
Mar. 13 Soaking Prayer
Mar. 15 A Time of Liturgical Contemplation
Mar. 19 Donna Brayton's Class
Mar. 23 Contemplative Prayer Retreat 10-1
Mar. 23 Traditions of Easter – Families 10-1
Mar. 24 Palm Sunday services at 8 and 10:15 a.m.
Mar. 28 Maundy Thursday – Foot Washing service
Mar. 29 Good Friday Services – Noon and 7:00 p.m.
Mar. 30 Holy Saturday/Great Vigil of Easter 7 p.m.
Mar. 31 Easter Sunday – Services at 8 & 10:15 a.m.
Apr. 5-7 "Rooted"-Youth Min. at Green Oak Ranch
Apr. 10 Soaking Prayer
May 3 Anglican Men's Retreat at Forest Home