



The Shepherd's Voice

September 11, 2012

By Fr. Joe Rees

“Who is Jesus?”

“And Jesus asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered Him, “You are the Christ.” And He strictly charged them to tell no one about Him.” Mark 8: 29-30.

After all the healings and miracles Jesus gathers His disciples and goes off to visit villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way, He asks them what people are saying of Him, who He is?? Some say ‘John the Baptist (come back from the dead!), others say Elijah revisited! Impossible! Who is this charismatic leader who has come on the scene with healing in His hands? Who would the disciples say that Jesus is after walking with Him for a couple of years? Is He the Messiah?

Jesus speaks of the “Son of Man” who would be rejected by the Pharisees and Scribes, elders and chief priests, and be killed, and after three days rise again. Major prophecy! Just what were those disciples thinking then?! Then Jesus turns to Peter and says, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.” Would they still be thinking Jesus was in His right mind? Would they still follow Him? Jesus tops it off by saying if “anyone would come after me, let him/her deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Me.” The word cross was used in that day to mean that instrument of torturous death for criminals of the Roman Empire: crucifixion. Take up my cross? What? Just who is this man?!

This man is God!

He's not just a great rabbi, a wonderful teacher, a superb human being, or an answer to the plight of the downtrodden. He is God in the flesh. Let that sink in a bit. He is both man and God at the same time. Fully human and fully divine. He did lay

down His life and in three days He took it up again. No human can do that. And, He rose up into heaven and reigns in splendor and majesty.

But, who do you say that He is?

Your answer makes all the difference for you. Our answer is what has been passed down to us for generations of believers. If your answer is as a believer, then you have eternal life and absolute assurance that you will rise again into heaven on your last day. If you are still undecided, then your destiny is also undecided. If you don't believe, you will have chosen your eternity...wandering and searching for the light that won't shine. My hope and prayer is that you will choose if you haven't and you will let the Lord know it.

On this day, eleven years ago, some hijackers took control of aircraft full of innocent people and intentionally steered them into buildings full of people. They did so in order to say to the world “we will bring God's punishment to those who we believe are not of God. We have judged them!” They chose to speak and act for God. They took the privilege to think they were right. They murdered indefensible thousands who just went to work that morning. They did it for a man who espoused revolution and used violence to achieve it, Osama Bin Laden. He would eventually die a brutal death, his worldly aspirations unsuccessful and his network of adherents broken, confused and disarray. Radicals still hold him as a hero, but who was he? An evil man. He and his assassins tried to usurp God's power and demand that He do their decisions. They died a dark and gruesome death. They most probably are wandering the wastelands of a lifeless universe without the love and light of Christ.

No man can ever take the place of Jesus. No man can ever act as God. Only one man was and is

God...His Name is Jesus, the Christ, the Messiah, the Son of Man, the Son of God, our Savior and Lord.

And we worship Him. And we try our best to model our lives after Him. And we won't give in to imposters or follow charlatans to give them power over our lives. We will stand with Christ and Him alone. This is because we know, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that Jesus Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, He is our Master and our Friend, He is God Almighty and we serve Him alone. And He will lead us in the true paths of peace and

righteousness to accomplish His will and fulfill His purposes.

I'm praying for all families with children who are still deciding who Jesus really is. May they know Him as their Lord and Savior, we pray.

Love in Christ,
Fr. Joe

Sunday Servers this week...

September 16, 2012	Proper 19	8:00 a.m. Service	10:15 a.m. Service
First Reader	Isaiah 50:4-9	Robbin Gates	Joy Rosendale
Psalm Reader	Psalm 116	Choir	Petey Seibold
Second Reader	James 2:1-18	Stephen Thould	Frank Comstock
Intercessor		Rob Ackerman	Fiona Kilby
Lay Euch. Ministers		Joan Jacobs, Richard Rieder	KC Winward, Frances Slaughter
Acolytes		Rob Ackerman	Fiona K (C) ; Damon W (T1); Dasiahmarie V (T2)
Welcomers		Jane Rost	Jane Rost, Margaret Olson, Jeanne Shannon
Ushers		Jackie Lansing, Chris Corey	Dink Nash, Ted Vallas, JR Fox, April Knowles
Vestry Person of Day			Richard Rieder
Healing Ministers		Thor Strom, Robbin Gates	Connie F, Petey S, Kari C, Donna S
Announcer		Jani Dubski	Joy Rosendale

Soaking Prayer

Wednesday, September 12, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.

Wear your comfortable clothes. Bring a pillow. Bring a blanket. Bring your friends. Come and "soak" in the presence of the Lord while soft music is playing.

Don't Forget!

Get your dinner at Chick-fil-A on Thursday, September 13th using the coupon you picked up at church or printed from this email.

Come between 4-7 p.m.

A portion of the proceeds will come back to Grace Anglican Church.

Ministry Faire on Sept. 16th.

Between services and after the second service. Find out about all the ministries of Grace Anglican Church and how you might become involved.

Tuesday Evenings at Grace It's the place to be!

Beginning at 6:30 p.m. on September 11th Potluck fellowship dinner in the fellowship room.

7:15 p.m. – Fr. Joe will lead a group for newcomers interested in understanding more about the church.

7:15 p.m. – Fr. Richard will lead a class on the book of Philippians followed by lively discussion.

Both groups will finish by 8:30 p.m. Both classes will run through October 2nd.

Sunday at Grace

8:00 a.m. – Traditional Service
9:30 a.m. – Fellowship
10:15 a.m. – Family Service with
Worship Team

Fund Raiser for Grace at Chick-fil-A

September 13, 2012

From 4 to 7 p.m.

Pick up a coupon at church
and plan to have your dinner at
Chick-fil-A that evening.

Readings for Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-7

Psalm 116

James 2:1-18

Mark 8:27-38

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

This Week at Grace –Sept.11 – Sept. 18

Tues. September 11

11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study – Revelation
4:30 p.m. Healing Eucharist at the Oasis

Wed September 12

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
6:30 p.m. Soaking Prayer at Grace

Thurs. September 13

7:00 a.m. – Bible Study
8:00 a.m. Clergy Meeting
10-Noon Play Group
11:30 a.m. Healing Eucharist – Oasis
6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Fri. September 14

Fr. Joe's Day Off
6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer and Healing at Grace

Sat. September 15

8:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study
All Day Diocesan Convention

Sun. September 16

8:00 a.m. Traditional Service
9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Coffee
10:00 a.m. Nursery opens
10:15 a.m. Family Worship Service
& Children's Church

Mon. September 17

6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer

Tues. September 18

11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study at Grace
4:30 p.m. Healing Eucharist at the Oasis
6:30 p.m. Potluck fellowship dinner
7:15 p.m. Philippians class
7:15 p.m. Newcomer's Orientation class.

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.

Rector's Bible Study

Tuesdays

11:30 a.m.

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

Soaking Prayer Service at Grace

6:30 p.m. Wednesday,
September 12, 2012

Save the date!

Sept. 12 Soaking Prayer Service
Sept. 13 Chick-fil-A church fund raiser
Sept. 15 Diocesan Convention
Sept. 16 Ministry Faire at Grace
Sept. 16 Sunday School starts
Sept. 19 Vestry meeting
Sept. 20-23 Men's Cursillo
Sept. 27-30 Women's Cursillo
Oct. 3 Healing Prayer
Oct. 6 Sharon Pappas Memorial Service
Oct. 10 Soaking Prayer
Oct. 17 Vestry meeting
Nov. 10 2:00 p.m. – Helen Fritz Memorial Service
Nov. 12 Mike Endicott – OSL Healing Conference
at Grace Anglican Church

Did you know?

There's a service of Evening Prayer and Healing on Friday evenings at 6:00 p.m. Stop by on your way home from work and decompress for the weekend.