



The Shepherd's Voice

November 20, 2012

By Fr. Joe Rees

“Thankful Hearts”

“Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.’”

Mark 11: 2-3

This Sunday is Christ The King Sunday and the last Sunday of the Church liturgical year. The Gospel for this Sunday speaks of Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the King of Heaven coming into His own Temple! The people along the way threw down palm branches and shouted, “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!” (vs. 9-10) Yes, the King had come to His Temple and yet the keepers of that temple did not recognize Him or give Him homage. The religious leaders knew the prophecies but they would not recognize Jesus as the Messiah. Their hearts were stone cold.

As I think about the crowds, the poor and infirmed, the uneducated and un-trained, it was the common folk who knew in their hearts that Yahweh would provide a Savior. This Messenger would come to liberate them from the oppression they faced day to day. They were the simple and unassuming, but they would realize this man Jesus was the One who would liberate them and give them the restored kingdom of David. They had hope. They thronged Him as He rode into Jerusalem. They remembered Zechariah 9:9...”Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” They knew the Messiah of Isaiah 61 would come...”To proclaim liberty to the captives”, and other

prophecies that spoke of God's Messenger who would open the way to salvation. Their hearts were filled with the fires of hope and new life!

When we consider the incredible journey of humanity from that time of Jesus Christ's triumphal return to His rightful earthly throne, we come to this day and age when hearts are again seemingly colder and not as vibrant in the faith Jesus came to impart. We are shackled by the culture that gives atheists the privileges of a recognized and authorized ‘religion’ (ie. Santa Monica removing Christmas display due to atheist intrusions). We are confronted with an oppressive government that imposes harsh penalties on companies who fail to give the new health care benefits because they don't believe in insuring people who want payment for use of the ‘morning after pill’ to abort an impregnated living human embryo that is a child in the making. We have a society around us that wants ‘stuff’ and entitlements of material surfeit instead of the reality of God's blessing from His Messenger Jesus. What is happening to our hearts before God? What is going to be the result of encasing them with the hardness of this present darkness? In a couple of days we'll enjoy Thanksgiving Day...why are we thankful? To whom are we thankful?

Our hearts will only truly be alive when we are thankful for having Jesus live fully within them. They are only warm, vibrant, and stoked with the fires of hope when Jesus proclaims His throne is in the center of our heart-temples. The worship we give to God will only truly be alive when we are absolutely convinced that the only reason we are alive is to give the Lord Jesus His rightful rule of our hearts. We are only thankful when we realize He has indeed saved us from our sin and resulting death, not only from this life but for an eternity of deathly existence far from the love of God. We are truly thankful when we realize the power of Jesus'

transforming life living within us that gives us sweet communion with Him, the Lord of heaven, the King of eternity. We are then gratefully obedient and lovingly drawn into the arms of our merciful and beautiful Savior Jesus, the God of all creation. Oh how I wish that more people knew how to be truly thankful and live their lives of gratitude in love with their Savior Jesus!

This Thanksgiving Day, please take time to realize the power of Jesus' Saving Grace and give Him times of fellowship and worship and adoration. Give Him your hearts over and over again in love and adoration. Help Him to know how thankful you are that He lives within your hearts to give you life, liberty, and the pursuit of the Father's plan and

purpose for your being...real happiness! Give Him your thankful heart!

As a reminder, we'll be gathering together as the Body of Christ on Thursday morning at 10:00 AM to celebrate the great Thanksgiving of the Lord's Supper and His Life that comes into ours through Holy Communion. Please come and offer Him your thankful heart! And, I'm thankful for all of you!

Love in Christ,
Fr. Joe

Sunday Servers this week...

November 25, 2012	Christ the King	8:00 a.m. Service	10:15 a.m. Service
First Reader	Daniel 7:9-14	Judy Gillease	Pat Richardson
Psalm Reader	Psalm 93	Choir	Jim Livingston
Second Reader	Revelation 1:1-8	David Green	Linnie Phelps
Intercessor		Acolyte	Acolyte
Lay Euch. Ministers		Joan Jacobs, Kay Focke	Richard Rieder, Dick Phelps
Acolytes		Joy Rosendale	Chris K (C); David A (T1); Kalani C (T2)
Welcomers		Paula Sholly, Jane Rost	Mary Kinmon, Carolyn Blumberg, Bill & Judi Collins
Ushers		Dick Sholly, Rob Ackerman	Dink Nash, Ted Vallas, Ken Putnam, Jim Livingston
Vestry Person of Day	Richard Rieder		
Healing Ministers		Rudy Theobald, Jane Rost	Ann & JR Fox, Sarah Fuller, Kari Campbell
Announcer		Robbin Gates	Petey Seibold

Come join us at
Shakey's
4141 Oceanside Blvd.

For a Fund Raising Pizza Night
to benefit
Grace Anglican Church
Sunday, November 25th from 12:30-4:30 p.m.

Bring your family and friends. Shakey's will donate 25% of the menu price of any food purchase we make to help support our Children's Ministries. If you have a hectic schedule, you can still help because take-out orders count too.

**Family
Christmas Play**
December 16 at the
10:15 a.m. service

Advent Lessons and Carols
Sunday, December 9 at 7:30 p.m.
Join us as we read Bible lessons and sing the music that leads us into the celebration of the birth of Christ.

Advent Family Day – Dec. 1, 2012 from 10a.m. to 1 p.m. – Join with your Grace family to make Advent Wreaths, Advent Calendars, Jesse Trees, and more. There will be “Godly Play” narratives on the Holy Family.

Advent Time of Contemplation – Dec. 1, 2012 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.- Spend some quiet time with the Lord as we begin this season of Advent. Donna Brayton will facilitate.

Sunday at Grace

8:00 a.m. – Traditional service
with Choir
9:30 a.m. – Coffee & Adult Forum
10:00 a.m. – Nursery opens
10:15 a.m. – Family Service
With Worship Team
10:15 a.m. – Children's Church

Thanksgiving Dinner at Grace
Noon on November 22nd.
Thanksgiving Service
at 10:00 a.m.
Stay for dinner with your church
family. Sign- sheets are on the
bulletin board outside the office.

Readings for Sunday

Daniel 7:9-14
Psalm 93
Revelation 1:1-8
John 18:33-37

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 –Nov. 20- Nov. 27

Tues. November 20

11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study – Isaiah
4:30 p.m. Healing Eucharist at the Oasis
No Potluck or Teaching tonight

Wed November 21

No events scheduled today

Thurs. November 22

Thanksgiving Day – Office closed
10:00 a.m. Service at Grace
12:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Dinner at Grace

Fri. November 23

Office Closed

Sat. November 24

8:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study
10-12 Worship Team Rehearsal
1:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Sun. November 25

Christ the King Sunday

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Choir
9:30 a.m. Coffee & Adult Forum –
The Great Divorce by C.S. Lewis
10:00 a.m. Nursery opens
10:15 a.m. Family Service with Worship Team
Baptism
10:15 a.m. Children's Church

Mon. November 26

6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer

Tues. November 27

11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study at Grace
4:30 p.m. Healing Service at CHC
6:30 p.m. Potluck Fellowship Dinner at Grace
7:15 p.m. Teaching – "Christianity Explored"

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.

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!

Nov. 20 No teaching or potluck tonight
Nov. 22 Thanksgiving service at 10:00 a.m.
Nov. 22 Thanksgiving dinner at Grace – 11:30 a.m.
Nov. 25 Fund raiser for Grace at Shakey's Pizza
Nov 28 Vestry Meeting
Dec. 1 Advent Family Day – 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Dec. 1 Advent Contemplation– 10 am. to 1:00 p.m.
Dec. 2 Angel Tree Party – 3:00 p.m.
Dec. 5 Healing Service
Dec. 9 Second Sunday - Two services this month
Dec. 9 Advent Lessons & Carols – 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 12 Soaking Prayer
Dec. 16 Special Family Christmas Play – 10:15 a.m.
Dec. 23 One Service at 9:00 a.m.
Dec. 24 Services at 5 and 10 p.m.
Dec. 25 Service at 10:00 a.m.
Dec. 30 One Service at 9:00 a.m.
Dec. 31 New Year's Eve Service at 7:00 p.m.
May 3 Anglican Men's Retreat at Forest Home