



The Shepherd's Voice

September 18, 2012

By Fr. Joe Rees

“Servant of All”

“What were you discussing on the way?” But the disciples kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. And Jesus sat down and called the twelve. And He said to them, **“If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.”** Mark 9: 33-35. (from this Sunday's Gospel)

Jesus and His disciples had walked a long way to Capernaum. On the way, Jesus must have seen, and perhaps overheard, the disciples talking about which one of them was the ‘greatest’, ‘best’, ‘most important’, ‘superior’, you name it...pure hubris and puffed up ego! How like Jesus to “know” that they were in this sort of self-indulgent, ‘take the glory for myself’, temptation. He knew when the enemy was in the camp! He knew when Satan was attacking His beloved ones. He didn't wait. He stopped as soon as possible, and made the moment a crystal clear teaching moment. They needed correction. He gave it to them. Sometimes we need that clarity in our lives, don't we?!

The life of ministry, which in some ways we just celebrated this past Sunday with the Ministry Faire (very nicely done saints!), is not a life of ego-stroking. We have to ever guard against expressing our personal needs for being appreciated with heaps of approval. We must balance that error-bound tendency with the Lord's call to humbly serve Him through His Church. So we need to hear Jesus saying to us, “What are you discussing in your mind on the way to church, to serving Me at ministry venues?” We might want to evaluate that process of coming to terms with the ‘why’ we do what we do for the Lord. Is it that we simply want to glorify Him and Him alone, or, are we interested in some ‘kudo’ we need to have, or self-approbation. The things we do for the Lord might get compliments

from folks around us, and, that's ok. I've learned over the years to simply say “Thank you, praise the Lord.” Or, “Thank you. It's for the Lord's glory!” When we receive applause for great offerings of music, solo singing, or teaching or preaching, I've always wanted to say at that moment, “let's give our clap offering to the Lord for what He's done in someone's or my own life”. That's why in most cases we don't clap for things in the Anglican Church. We are content to know that the gifts we have received are being given back to God to glorify Him...and we really don't need the applause.

Jesus says, “If anyone would be first, he must be last of all...servant of all.” And then He took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in His arms, said to them, “Whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me, and whoever receives Me, receives not Me but Him who sent Me.” That's clarity. Serving is allowing the Jesus in Me to do ‘it’ for His glory. Serving is being inspired by the Holy Spirit to do or say just the right thing at the right moment for that other person, not to be self-exalting, but to lift the other person up. Children are usually not so complicated to try to arrange glory for themselves. They just are depending on the maturity of the adults, hoping to have joy in their hearts. I remember when my daughter gave away her dolls to a friend who didn't have any. She came to us and said, “I feel good; it gave her joy.” Simple. No ego. Just simple goodness of charity and love. No need to brag. She had joy in her heart and that was enough. That's the reason for serving. That brings glory to our Lord Jesus.

So, let us be servants of all and not interested in who gets the glory. I'm preaching to myself as well. We don't have to be ‘great’, we just need to be faithful to Jesus and when we feel the goodness of giving from the heart, when we know the joy that

bubbles up within, then we give it to Him who gave us the ‘way, the truth, and the life’ that makes us want to give in the first place. Thanks be to God who gives to us all His Spirit, Who makes us servants who serve with the joy of Jesus from the heart.

With love and prayers for all,
Fr. Joe

Sunday Servers this week...

September 23, 2012	Proper 20	8:00 a.m. Service	10:15 a.m. Service
First Reader	Jonah 3:10-4:11	Dick Phelps	Frances Slaughter
Psalm Reader	Psalm 54	Choir	Ann Fox
Second Reader	James 3:16-4:6	Linnie Phelps	Cline Handy
Intercessor		Joy Rosendale	Chris Kilby
Lay Euch. Ministers		Myrna & John Lipnicke	Cline Handy, Carolyn Blumberg
Acolytes		Joy Rosendale	Chris K (C); Caitlin B (T1); Zachary J (T2)
Welcomers		Myrna Lipnicke	Myrna Lipnicke, Judi & Bill Collins, Carolyn Blumberg
Ushers		Jackie Lansing, David Green	Dink Nash, Ted Vallas, Ken Putnam, Ray Seibold
Vestry Person of Day			Jane Rost
Healing Ministers		Jane Rost, Thor Strom	Kari Campbell, Ann Fox, Connie Fowle, Sarah Fuller
Announcer		Robbin Gates	Petey Seibold

Have you checked your contact information for the new directory?
The draft directory will be out for one more week before it is finalized for publication. Please check your information, initial it if it is correct or make necessary changes. If your name isn't in the directory and it should be, please write your information on the back of one of the pages in the draft directory.

Women's Autumn Country Tea
Saturday, October 27 from 2-4 p.m.
At the home of
Myrna & John Lipnicke in
Fallbrook.
There are still several seats available.
Contact Joy Rosendale to sign up.

Stand Up for Kids
Outreach Ministry
to Homeless Teens
Next Outreach
Monday, October 8, 2012

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

Please pray for the
upcoming Cursillos
– for the candidates
and for the teams.

Readings for Sunday

Jonah 3:10-4:11
Psalm 54
James 3:16-4:6
Mark 9:30-37

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 –Sept.18 – Sept. 25

Tues. September 18

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

Wed September 19

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
6:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting – Fellowship Room

Thurs. September 20

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 21

Fr. Joe's Day Off
10:00 a.m. Memorial Service for Jim Phillips
6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer and Healing at Grace

Sat. September 22

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

Sun. September 23

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 24

6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer

Tues. September 25

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)

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

Save the date!

Sept. 19 Vestry meeting
Sept. 21 Memorial Service for Jim Phillips
Sept. 20-23 Men's Cursillo
Sept. 27-30 Women's Cursillo
Oct. 3 Healing Prayer
Oct. 6 Sharon Pappas Memorial Service
Oct. 8 Stand Up For Kids – Outreach Project
Oct. 10 Soaking Prayer
Oct. 17 Vestry meeting
Oct. 27 Women's Autumn Country Tea
Oct. 28 Saints & Angels party at Grace
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.