



St. Andrew's Tidings

Message from Margaret+

Jay Parini, author of *The Human Face of God*, states that the Jesus story isn't worth dying for, it's worth living for. Jesus presents a third way, a way of being in the world that embraces the Sermon on the Mount, with its challenge to violence and greed. The ethic of reciprocity lies at its center: *Do unto others as you would have them do unto you*. Jesus offers a "new covenant" arguing that the old way—an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth—was finished. Now we must turn the other cheek, doing good to those who hate us. We are to celebrate the peacemakers, the poor at heart, the meek. It is a way of being in the world that embraces karma: be merciful and God will show you mercy.

Parini argues that Jesus offers a perfect example of God's spirit in operation in the world. His life offers a pattern that said, implicitly: here's how to do it. Even his death on the cross and the resurrection mean a great deal in symbolic terms. The resurrection was not the great Resuscitation. It was a total transformation. The stories we read in the gospels are not necessarily literal, but they offer a mythical thinking that is not only true but *especially true*. "The kingdom of God is within you," Jesus said, when asked where it lay. He offered an example of transformation and the fact that nobody recognized Jesus—at least at first—after the resurrection tells us something important: one should not expect that "eternal life" will look like anything we can imagine in our temporal lives. Information is not our greatest need...opening our hearts to the creative and life-giving Spirit of love is!

Opening our hearts also makes us vulnerable, and often in that vulnerability we fear that our hearts may be broken. And yet, the world's pain does break our hearts—over and over again. But a broken heart is not a paralyzed one. Jesus, Buddha, Mohammed, and the saints and prophets and masters of all religions have revealed this. Hearts are broken open, not destroyed, and from an open heart's capacity to "be with" suffering, healing arises. Healing is not something that can be offered from a distance, and outside attempts to "fix" the problem. Rather healing emerges from the act of "being with" suffering. The healing relationship is established by the authentic presence of an open heart. It is this organic image that

reminds us that this Sunday is Rogation Sunday (see the article about Rogation Sunday) as we seek to emulate Jesus' love and "bear much fruit." This is the evidence of our discipleship with him. We are to emulate Jesus' life of sacrifice and the outpouring of love to all of God's children who need healing or acceptance or love.

Blessings and love,
Margaret+

ROGATION DAYS

by Don Palmer

Rogation Days are an ancient custom which has been being observed since the 5th century. Rogation—to ask, as in “interrogate”—we ask God's blessing of the harvest, of the earth and sea. We remind ourselves that we are the stewards of Creation, neither the authors nor the owners of it. Originally an agricultural observance, it has been broadened and made more inclusive—the crops, the catch of the sea, the fruits of our labors in all their aspects.

An ancient pagan custom was “beating the bounds”, with a procession walking out the boundary lines of the village and marking the bounds with stakes. Sticks of willow and birch were used to strike the stakes; hence, “beating the bounds”. Subsequently the custom became incorporated into Rogation Days celebration, particularly in England, in which the parishes are clearly defined, contiguous with adjacent parishes. Rogation Day was celebrated by walking the boundaries of the parish and acknowledging in this way our tangible stewardship.

As the countries, including our own, became more industrialized and less agrarian, we have seen a lessening of the celebration of Rogation—and we are the worse for it. Our “new” Episcopal Book of Common Prayer of 1979 sneakily de-emphasized Rogation Days and Rogation Sunday, as they were annotated in the 1928 BCP. They are privileged times to celebrate stewardship, to remind ourselves of our roles, not as masters or owners, but as stewards.

Job had to be reminded of that, too. Remember the voice from the whirlwind? “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? When the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?”

Rogation Days are to honor God for His creation, and to pray for the land and sea and the gifts of labor, and for the needs of all. The traditional Rogation Days are the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday before Ascension Day.. Rogation

Sunday is the Sixth Sunday after Easter. Great music is in our hymnal for celebrating Rogation.

St. Francis, in his “Canticle of Brother Sun”, wrote: “May thou be praised, my Lord, for our sister, mother earth, who sustains and governs and produces fruits with colored flowers and green plants.”

“Almighty God, whose loving hand hath given us all that we possess: Grant us grace that we may honor thee with our substance and, remembering the account which we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of thy bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

(Don is a member of St. Paul’s, Magnolia Springs. A retired pediatrician, Don was a pilgrim on the last Cursillo)



snapobjects
Free Complete Breakfast Vector

TIME FOR BREAKFAST

Beginning June 1st. we will begin having breakfast at 8:30 a.m. once again. On June 8 there are plans being made for Pentecost, so that will be announced later. Please get with your Foyer group, your Reunion Group, your Prayer group etc. and sign up to do breakfast. Last year’s menus were wonderful !

Pledges and Tithes

For the first time in a long time we are running behind in our giving/receiving. Granted, there has been a lot of illness etc. But it would be incredibly helpful for everyone to bring their giving up to date. Summer is approaching, air conditioning goes up etc. and many will be traveling so don't forget about your check to the church. Please consider your gifts to God at this time. Thanks.

COOK BOOKS

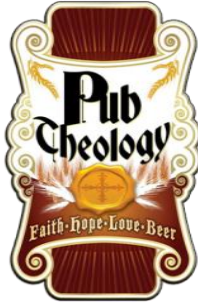


We still have centennial cookbooks for sale! Where else can you get a useful \$10 gift? Why not buy several and keep them on hand for those last minute occasions when you need a gift? Plus, the cookbooks reflect the wonderful heritage of our church. Remember, each adult member (male and female) is asked to buy at least two cookbooks to help raise money for the Living Stones campaign. By purchasing cookbooks, each of us takes an active role toward reaching the goals of making our church more accessible and of enhancing a sense of community at St. Andrew's. Visit the table in Byrne Hall and purchase yours today.

BISHOP'S SEARCH:

AS YOU ALL KNOW, WE AS A DIOCESE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF CALLING A NEW BISHOP FOR THE DIOCESE. THIS IS A COSTLY PROCESS, AND THEREFORE, THE DIOCESE HAS ASKED THE PARISHIONERS OF EACH CHURCH TO CONTRIBUTE TO THIS EFFORT. ST. ANDREW'S HAS BEEN ASKED TO CONTRIBUTE \$7,000. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE, PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK TO THE DIOCESE OF THE CENTRAL GULF COAST. IT WILL BE TAX DEDUCTIBLE. THANKS.

*Pub Theology
Monday
Night
6 p.m.
"The Place"
on Harrison*



*Bring a
Bible-
no experience
necessary!*



Tai Chi Classes to Begin Soon

An eight week Tai Chi workshop will begin soon on Tuesdays, beginning June 3. Lynda Jones will be the teacher. She has practiced for over 30 years, and has studied Tai Chi with Master Chung Jen Cheng of Taiwan before being given permission to teach Tai Chi Yang Style form.

Students will focus on perfecting the first 18 postures of the Yang Style form. Classes will begin with several warm-up exercises to help improve body flexibility. Breathing exercises will be taught to help the body release tension and focus on the practice. Handouts will be provided to help reinforce class study. After each eight week study, there will be a break, and then another eight week study. Classes are \$4 per class.

If you are interested in taking the class, please sign up on the bulletin board in Byrne Hall.

Please keep the following in your prayers : Louis, Ann, Maggie, Anne, Jerry, Jeremy, Patricia, Joe, David, Michele, Evan, Lauren, Wyn, Laurie, Bob, Sean, Jeanne, Irv, Peggy, Mary Jane, Pat, Matthew, Shawn, Charlie, Kris, Mary, Kitty , Holly, Tiffany, Lindsey, John, Bubba, Sandra, David, Frances, Warren, Ruth Ann, Rosemary, Iva, Janet, Glen, Robert, Linne', Ginny, Pete, Zienia, Steve, Maria, Ethel, Joy, Jane, Kelly, Ryan, Colleen, Pete, Joni, Tim, Carol

We pray for our men and women in the Armed Forces at home and abroad; Jeff, Bowe, James, Andrew, Kenneth, Evan, Ryan, Joe, Nate, Richard, David, Brian, Jason, Billy, Colin, Todd, Brett, Jordan