

HOMILY 2/27/11 8 EPIPHANY

Isaiah 49:8-16a, Ps 131, 1Corinthians 4:1-5, Matt 6:24-34

Collect: Most loving Father, whose will it is for us to give thanks for all things, to fear nothing but the loss of you, and to cast all our care on you who care for us: Preserve us from faithless fears and worldly anxieties, that no clouds of this mortal life may hide from us the light of that love which is immortal, and which you have manifested to us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord: who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

What would our life be like if we feared nothing but the loss of God?

We would not be afraid of needles, or dogs, or death, or

feeling stupid.

We would not be afraid of losing our health, or our wealth,

or our investments.

We would not be afraid of speed, or falling, or tests, or failing.

What would our life be like if we cast all our cares on God, who cares

for us?

We would sleep soundly at night.

We would not have to have a night light.

We would enjoy life more.

We would be more trusting of others.

We wouldn't suck our thumb, or bite our nails,

or tear our hair out.

We would share more.

So, is this a possible scenario for our future? All of our readings today are about how God comforts us. The

imagery is so calming. “To prisoners I say come out. To those who are in darkness, come out.” “ You shall not hunger, nor thirst, nor be struck down by natural disasters.” “I will remember you better than a mother remembers her child; I will never forget you because I have written you on the palms of my hands.” I will be judged by what God sees in my heart, and not by other people. Do not worry about the physical things in life, God knows we need them. Do not worry because you cannot change things by worrying. Focus on today, that is enough to handle.

I remember when Rev. Susan Sherard was our interim, and one of the things that she told us frequently was to celebrate what we were doing. She reminded us that it is so easy to get caught up in what we do NOT have, and compare ourselves to other churches and what they have, that we forget what we are accomplishing right here, with God’s help.

So this is the word for our Feast Day of St. David. We are not to worry about tomorrow. We are to strive for the kingdom of God here and now and for His righteousness in our lives, and let the other things be

taken care of by God. The kingdom of God here is:

Our men having breakfast together once a month.

Eating together at our monthly potlucks in the parish hall.

The members working together to clean up the church and

churtyard.

People coming in to help our kids get their Eagle Scout

projects completed.

The choir and musicians practicing regularly and sharing

melodies of hope.

A small group praying weekly for our church and the needs

of the world.

Managing to pay our bills.

Welcoming and supporting the teachers and students next

door at Covington Street School.

A group of peculiar, distinct individuals, who disagree on

many things, and believe in many different things, joining together Sunday after Sunday to worship together, and pray together and be fed together.

This is the good news for our feast day. We have survived for 106 years. We have met our obligations, and nurtured our members and helped the community and the world. And we continue to do these things.

This is really something to celebrate!

Carolyn Beranek