



Trinity Topics

JULY 2021

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“You are the light of the world...

No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

—Matthew 5:14-16

Summer is a great time to take up a new training regimen. Exercise and activities for mental enrichment are well enough, but don't forget matters of the spirit. Our souls need the exertion as much as our minds and bodies. The Bible commends itself to us for spiritual exercise: “All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.” (2 Tim. 3:16) We can train our souls for the great mission of the Church through some wrestling with scripture! This work is vital because we, the people of Trinity Church, have been chosen by God to be the light of Jacksonville. We do this through our works of faith and obedience of God's word in the Bible.

As Christians, we look to the Bible for guidance in the moral questions we encounter in our lives. The Bible confronts us when we sin, and it comforts us with the assurance of forgiveness when we repent. It gives us sustenance for the mission the Lord has given us in Jacksonville. The Bible is so essential to our works of righteousness because it is the record given to us by the prophets and apostles of the life and work of Jesus, who is himself the Way, the Truth and Life. There are many books and philosophies of life that help men and women learn to be basically decent people, but in Jesus alone we find a connection to the God who created us. Since it faithfully testifies to the life of Jesus, the Bible can faithfully guide us in the sort of life we ought to lead.

It is Jesus himself that we receive when we faithfully and prayerfully read the Bible. This is not to say, however, that only the Gospels are relevant to our lives, or that they are more authoritative for Christians. I have heard this argument frequently used in Church discourse. The conviction of the Church since the apostles has been that the whole Bible faithfully testifies to the life of Jesus, including the Old Testament. This is the natural consequence of our belief that we receive God Himself in the life of Jesus. The God that we receive in Jesus is the very same God who created us and saved the people of Israel from its painful servitude in Egypt. Therefore, though the ritual commandments of the Old Testament (such as the sorts of animals we may eat or the observance of the Sabbath on Saturday) may be different in the age of the Messiah, the moral teachings still apply to our own lives.

It is in our obedience to the Bible that we also find the selves that we long to be in the deepest part of our hearts. God does not impose onerous commands on us to restrain our happiness. Jesus says, “My yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” (Matt. 11:30) The commands we find in the Bible are the promise of finding our truest selves as children of God. They are freedom from the burden of despair, guilt, and meaninglessness that plagues our age.

Reading the Bible tends to be one of those things we always resolve to do when we have the time, but as St. Paul reminds us, “Now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation!” (1 Cor. 6:2) The time to encounter Jesus in the pages of Scripture is always right now. Reading the Bible is urgent, and knowing the Bible isn't going to just happen all on its own. We must make time for it. The moral questions of our age and the needs of the people around us are urgent, and we must look to the Word of God to discern His will for us. We will be the light of the world when we are obedient to the commands we find in the Bible. That begins when we open the Bible and pledge ourselves to believe and obey whatever we find there.

Father Zachary Brooks +

A Course in Anglican History: Part XXIX

The reign of King James I is remembered as something of a golden age in English history, with glories comparable to the reign of his predecessor Queen Elizabeth I. William Shakespeare, John Donne, Ben Jonson, and Sir Francis Bacon contributed to a great explosion of English literature. James oversaw the colonization of the Americas (Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in North America, was named after him). He commissioned the great King James translation of the Bible, without a doubt the most important work of literature in the English language to this day. When it came to matters of religion, he consistently held a policy of not following through with his own policies. As King of Scotland, he expressed a wish for the Scottish Church to adopt bishops and the Prayerbook like the English Church. When Presbyterians resisted, he didn't press the issue. As King of England, he insisted English clergy wear a surplice at services. When Puritans increasingly refused to wear the appointed vestment, he turned a blind eye. When extremists in England demanded that James ban the godless activity of playing football on Sunday (a pious but unpopular policy to say the least), he put them off indefinitely. His refusal to ban sports on Sunday so horrified these extremists that they first left England for the Netherlands, and then for the Americas to establish Plymouth Colony. History remembers them as the Pilgrim Fathers. So long as Catholics pledged obedience to himself, he was willing to overlook their non-conformity to the State Church. Some historians have accused him of being something of a "lucky fool" in avoiding conflict so long in his reign. They point to the fact that the conflicts he avoided so carefully in his reign would end up exploding during the reign of his son, Charles I. Other historians look to the horrific massacres of Europe's religious wars during his reign and conclude that, perhaps, his stability and toleration might have been preferable.

This column is a monthly series on the history of Anglicanism and the Episcopal Church.

The Readings for the Sundays in July

	<i>First Lesson</i>	<i>Psalms</i>	<i>Second Lesson</i>	<i>Gospel</i>
July 4:	2 Samuel 5:1-5,9-10	48	2 Corinthians 12:2-10	Mark 6:1-13
July 11:	2 Samuel 6:1-5,12b-19	24	Ephesians 1:3-14	Mark 6:14-29
July 18:	2 Samuel 7:1-14a	89:20-37	Ephesians 2:11-22	Mark 6:30-34,53-56
July 25:	2 Samuel 11:1-15	14	Ephesians 3:14-21	John 6:1-21

Pandemic Protocol Update

With changing guidelines from the governor and CDC, the pandemic precautions in place during worship have become a matter of considerable confusion. There have been many comments that Trinity Church is moving too quickly in relaxing guidelines, and just as many comments that we are moving too slowly! As a community we can only try to compromise somewhere in the middle. First, with the dramatic decline of COVID-19 cases, all members of Trinity Church are encouraged to attend services in person. We have restored congregational singing and reception of Holy Communion. Members can volunteer to host a reception in the churchyard after the 10 o'clock service. Broadcasts of Sunday services will continue, however. Second, though current state guidelines recommend masks only for the unvaccinated, Trinity Church will continue mask usage for all for the time being, with social distancing. There continue to be outbreaks in our area, and this measure will protect those who are not, or cannot be, vaccinated, including all children. Finally, the most important contribution you can make to ending this pandemic is getting vaccinated if you have not already done so. The sooner everyone is immune to COVID-19, the sooner we can pack away all protocols forever. **We are all in this together!**

News & Announcements

Stained Glass Windows

The sanctuary window restoration has been completed. The window in the Baptistry and four of the small windows will be scheduled by the stained-glass studio as they fit in their schedule. We thank those who have already contributed to this project. The cost for the work on this one window was \$15,763. A contribution to our stained-glass restoration project would be a good way to remember someone who has died, to thank God for some blessing on our life, or simply to make sure our windows are preserved for decades to come.

Sunday Services

Attendance has been constant at our two services. We continue to livestream the 10 o'clock service on Facebook., and we still require face masks and maintain social distancing so that all attendees feel safe. We have begun to have a short outdoor social gathering with snacks after the 10 o'clock service. If you would like to help with this, please contact Jo Ann in the Parish Office.

Weekday Services

Attendance has been very light. We continue to have celebrations of the Holy Eucharist at 10 o'clock on Wednesdays and Holy Days. Morning Prayer is said at 10 o'clock on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.

Pledge Statements

If you made a pledge for 2021, you should find the six-month statement in this mailing. This statement will only show any contributions you have made since January 1. If you have any questions, please contact Jo Ann in the Parish Office.

Congratulations!

Henley Rose Haley, daughter of Levi & Jill, granddaughter of Rob & Lisa, sister of Hugh & Harper, was born on June 12. Welcome to the world, Henley!

Judy Tighe was recently honored by Jacksonville Main Street on the twentieth anniversary of her position as its Executive Director. JMS's website states: "A vital downtown is the heart and soul of a thriving community." And Judy has worked endlessly to revitalize our downtown area. Congratulations, Judy!

**If you have news you wish to share, please contact the Parish Office.*

Lectors:

July 4: Nancy Taylor Porter
July 11: Forrest Keaton
July 18: Cathy Nelson
July 25: Paula Woods

Acolytes:

July 4: Bruce Evans
July 11: Levi Haley
July 18: Bruce Evans
July 25: Clayton Robb

Ushers:

July 4: Kip Ashmore
July 11: Chuck Crim
July 18: John Clancy
July 25: Rob Haley

Bible Study

via Zoom
2nd & 4th Tuesdays
7:00 pm
We are reading the
Gospel of St. Matthew.

Contact Fr. Zach for more information,
and he will send you
an invitation to the Zoom meeting.

SERVICES IN JULY 2021

Sunday, July 4:

The 6th Sunday after PENTECOST

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, July 7:

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, July 11:

The 7th Sunday after PENTECOST

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, July 14:

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, July 18:

The 8th Sunday after PENTECOST

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, July 21:

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Thursday, June 24:

St. Mary Magdalene

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, July 25:

The 9th Sunday after PENTECOST

8:00 am = Holy Eucharist
10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Monday, July 26:

St. James the Apostle

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, July 28:

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

*Morning Prayer is said at 10 o'clock
on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.*