

26th Sunday of Pentecost - Year C

Critical and Insignificant

- “What a week! I love you.”
 - How did she know?
 - Oh yeah, she was talking about the election and aftermath.
 - We never know, do we, what people are going through.
 - or what they’ve been through
 - or why they think that way
- We don’t know what the people were thinking when they were speaking about the temple and how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts
 - were they admiring the beauty?
 - the beauty of their own handiwork perhaps
 - or the fact that they get to claim a part in all that beauty
 - were they disparaging?
 - did they think it was pretentious?
 - wasteful?
 - why was all that wealth sitting idle when it could have been used to feed the hungry?
- We don’t know, we only get the response Jesus gave: “The days will come when not one stone is left upon another.”
 - well that’s concerning
 - suddenly their attention turns from the temple to the Christ
 - do not be led astray, he warns them
 - “no way, not us”
 - he warns them more; about wars and insurrections, famines and plagues

Sunday, November 13, 2016

- but wait, there's more: you will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends
- What a week indeed.
 - With the election some of us no doubt feel betrayed
 - while others feel relieved
 - nation against nation
 - nation against itself
- How would things be different if the election went the other way?
 - some would no doubt feel betrayed
 - while others would feel relieved
 - national against nation
 - nation against itself
- Where is God in this?
 - Saying "see I told you it would go this way"?
 - I don't think so,
 - Not like that.
 - God is not threatening us with famine and plagues and wars, earthquakes and other things too dreadful to name
 - We are reminded that these things happen
 - Creation is a work in progress, isn't complete
 - Humanity is a work in progress, we are not complete,
 - we are prideful and contentious,
 - frail and afraid
 - Amid all this terrible chaos, God says to us: not a hair on your head will perish
 - We, none of us, want to go through these difficult things
 - We worry about living through it.

Sunday, November 13, 2016

- What could Jesus possibly mean when he says “when you hear of wars, do not be terrified”?
- I find the thought of war terrifying.
- Injury and illness conjure fear of pain
- How sad it would be to lose the beauty around us
- And what if prejudice wins the day?
- These things are critically important to us. And they matter to our lives.
- At the same time, they matter not at all. We are no more or less precious in God’s sight because we seem to be more or less precious in someone else’s eyes.
- We are no more or less precious in God’s sight when we struggle with illness and anger.
- These things are not fair or pleasant, but God does not abandon us to suffering. The sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings. (Malachi 4)
- Paul tells us: Do not be weary in doing what is right. (2 Thessalonians 3)
- We are all children of a loving God who promises to accompany and guide us each and every day of our lives.
- If Jesus were to send us a text, it would probably say. “Phew, what a week! I love you.”