

**June 10, 2018
Pride 2
11:00 am
PRIDE SUNDAY!**

First Reading ~ Mark 3:20-35

Then Jesus went home, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. When Jesus' family and relatives heard about this, they came to take him away. They said, "He is crazy." The religious scholars who had come down from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebub," and "He casts out demons through the ruler of demons."

Summoning them, Jesus spoke in parables: "How can Satan cast out Satan? If a realm is divided against itself, it cannot last. If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. And if Satan has suffered mutiny in the ranks and is torn by dissention, the devil is finished and cannot endure. No attacker can enter a stronghold unless the defender is first put under restraint. Only then can the attacker plunder the stronghold."

"The truth is, every sin and blasphemy the people utter will be forgiven. But those who blaspheme against the Breath of God will never have forgiveness. They are guilty of an eternal sin." Jesus spoke all this because they said, "He is possessed by an impure spirit."

Jesus' mother and brothers arrived and sent in a message asking for him. A crowd was sitting around Jesus and they said to him, "Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you." Jesus replied, "Who is my mother? Who is my family?" And looking around at everyone there, Jesus said, "This is my family! Anyone who does the will of God, that person is my sister, my brother, my sibling, my mother."

Second Reading ~ *The Queer Innovation of a Family based on Choice and Necessity* From SKS, MS on EFNIKS . com (for queer and trans people of color)

The For LGBTQ+ folks, the standard conception of family has always excluded the significance of the social and cultural realities of chosen family. Chosen family is arguably a pillar of LGBTQ communities. Building kinship and family with those we are not related to by any biological and/or legal connection is beyond the scope of our traditional understandings of family. As queer people of color, chosen family is uniquely significant as we navigate the intersections of our racial, ethnic, sexual and gender identities. Kin relations are the foundation of chosen family. While typically family refers to biological relatives, for chosen family it includes friends, neighbors and other non-biologically related loved ones.

The connections are built on kinship with intentional demonstrations of love, shared history, material and emotional assistance, and enduring solidarity. Chosen family encompasses a network of social support, intimacy and identity. Providing monetary support, caretaking, and making symbolic gestures of love, all create and sustain the chosen family.

Third Reading ~ *Adapted from Virginia Church*

Each day I learn more than I teach; I learn that half-knowledge of another's life leads to false judgment; I learn that there is a surprising kinship in human nature; I learn that what we expect we get; I learn that there's more good than evil in this world; that age is a question of spirit, and that youth is the best of life no matter how numerous its years; I learn how much there is to learn.