

Sermon - June 20, 2021  
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Job 38:1-11  
Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32  
2 Corinthians 6: 1-13  
Mark 4:35-41

“Happy Father’s Day!”

Jesus said: “Why are you Afraid? Have you still no faith?”

In the Collect for today it says:

“You never fail to help and govern those whom You have set upon the sure foundation of your lovingkindness.”

So, it comes to this: The love of God the Father. This homily is one of encouragement and a reminder of the everlasting love of God, our Father.

Today is Father’s Day! I wanted to share today about the perfect example of a most gracious Father, our Father God, and to remind ourselves, “if God is with us, Whom and what shall we fear?”

In the Holy Trinity, we see the work of the Father is in Creation. Creation of the world, universe and us. St. Paul says we are the children of God. “For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry “Abba, Father,” it is the very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are the children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.” We have an affectionate word for our Father, Abba, Daddy or Dad. We are that close to God the Father. We are His children but something I think is missing today is we must remember that all of us, race, color, culture, language, creed, we are all God’s children. We are joint heirs with His Son Christ

We will begin summer meals this week here at Christ Church. I have administered summer meals for four years now and each year my focus has been on Creation. Each week, I send home with the kids an art project for each day of Creation. Let there be light! God created the sun, moon and stars. God created all living creatures in the sea, in the air, in the land. He ended each day saying “It is good.” But, his final creations, man and woman, He said were “Very good.” I really want to teach our children to care for God’s Earth, His Creation, that we are stewards of His Creation. We have planted children’s gardens with the kids to understand our care for Creation. But also God says, we, His children are very good and parents it is our job to sow this good seed into our children, that they are very good and the God of Creation loves them.

In the readings of Job and the Psalms, we see the wonders of God's creation. We see the wonders of the creative work of our Abba, Father, God.

In the readings of St. Paul, he exhorts the church in Corinth like a Father for them "to open wide your hearts to God and to us."

Fathers, your children are gifts from God and given to you to care for them and raise them in the admonition of God. But also, we must be open to other children that God calls us to care for, to love and impact their lives. One way I have seen this displayed here is in the ministry of The Brotherhood of St. Andrew. These Godly men caring for the church and for others as our Father God cares for us.

Another example of an earthly Father is St. Joseph. How many of you Fathers have adopted either sons and daughters? I think of the earthly Father, guardian of Jesus, St. Joseph. St. Joseph was an ordinary Jewish man. He followed the law and served God in humility. When he was betrothed to the young girl Mary, and found out that she was carrying a child, he could have left her. He could have had her stoned according to Jewish law but instead, listening to an Angel, he married her and was with her in the birth of Jesus.

The beautiful example of the life of Joseph was that he cared for, raised, and guarded the Christ Child, the Savior of the World, the Holy Son of God. I have a picture showing the blessed Virgin Mary holding the Christ child and around them are the arms of Joseph caring for the Holy Family. To protect his family, St. Joseph fled to Egypt with the Holy Family to save the life of Jesus and when it was safe he brought the Holy Family back to Nazareth. Joseph could have feared and not fled to Egypt, but he did as God instructed him to do. He cared for and raised Christ Jesus and changed the world forever because through the work of the Son of God, we are restored into a relationship with God the Father.

Throughout the Gospels, we see this wonderful perfect relationship of Jesus and His Abba, Father, God. In prayer, Jesus and the Father commune with each other. In the Holy Trinity, the Father loves the Son, the Son loves the Father and the Blessed Holy Spirit binds them together in perfect love.

In the Gospel today, we see Jesus and the disciples in a boat. A big storm quickly came and the disciples were afraid. But, Jesus, in perfect peace and rest with His Father is asleep on a cushion. Jesus was in complete communion with the Father God, the Creator of the Universe of the sea and land and awoke and said "Peace be Still." The Sea was calmed and He said to His disciples "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" You see, it is in a communing relationship with the Father, we no longer need to fear but have faith in God.

Every morning, I visit my Mother's grave and then take a long walk in Creation. When I passed by a local church, I saw on the marquis, "When Fear Knocks, Faith Answers." How do we not fear? It is by Faith in our Father God that all will be well and the torments will be calmed.

This is the relationship God the Father wants to have with us, His children, to trust in Him as we trust in our Earthly Fathers, to not fear, to have faith.

You see, we call God, the Father, Abba, Papa, Dad, Daddy, because we are His children and He is our Father. And, the beauty of this Father/Child relationship is one that we do not need to fear but rest in the arms of our Father.

Jesus said, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no Faith?" As the Collect says, "You never fail to help and govern those whom You have set upon the sure foundation of Your lovingkindness."