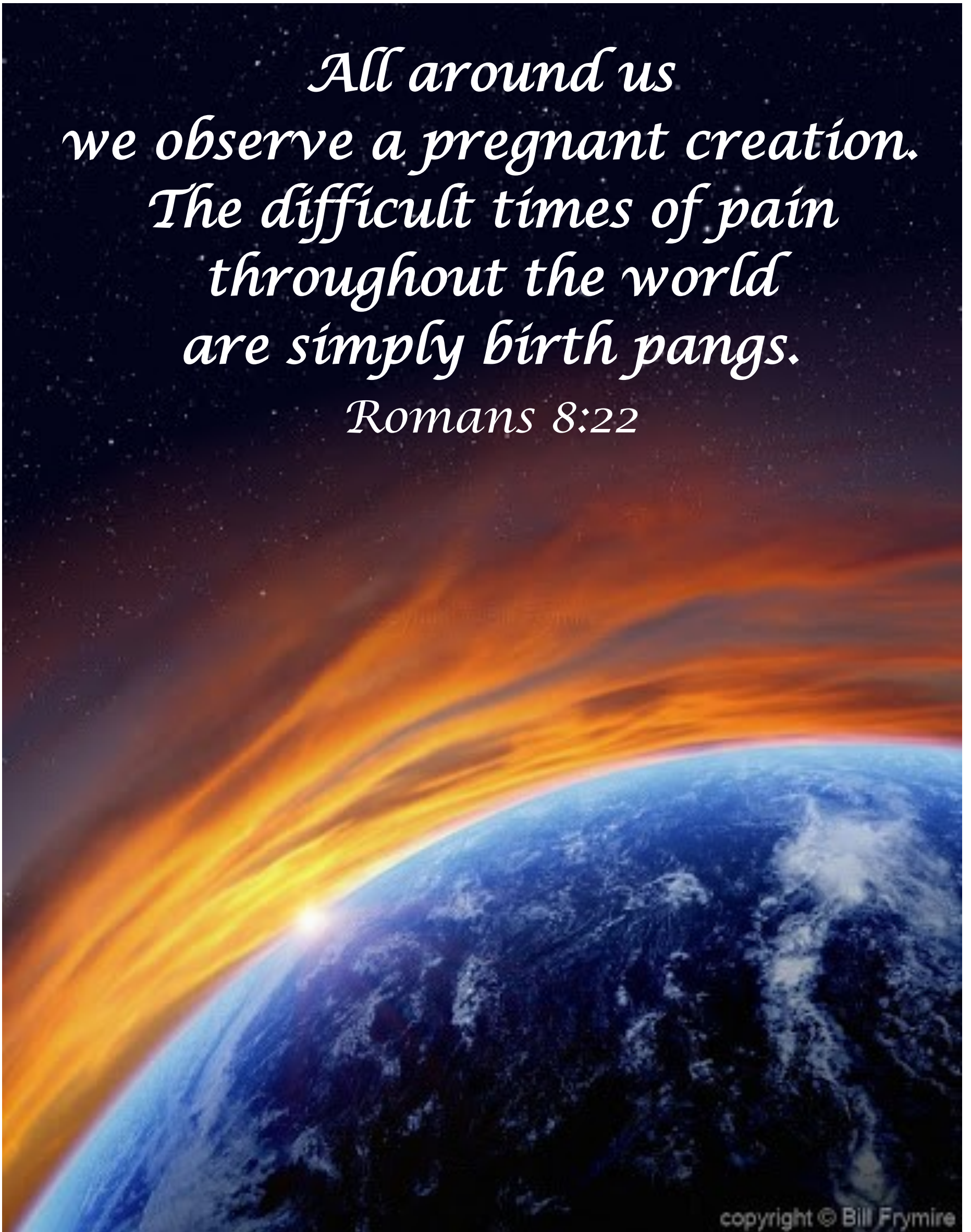


All Angels Episcopal Church
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
7:45 and 9:15 a.m.

*All around us
we observe a pregnant creation.
The difficult times of pain
throughout the world
are simply birth pangs.*

Romans 8:22



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July 19, 2020

Prelude

Dale Hooey

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord." *Psalm 122:1*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ have mercy on us and forgive us;

that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,

to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins

through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness,

and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Lord, open our lips.

And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness:

Come let us adore him.

Canticle *My Soul is at Rest* Simply Taize, Jaques Berthier

Refrain:

My soul is at rest in God alone. My salvation comes from God.

God is my safely and glory my rock and my strength.

Take refuge in God all you faithful, trust God at all times.

Guard your heart before him, our God is our refuge.

The Lessons

The psalm for this morning gives praise to God for knowing our inner thoughts and our outer ways. Psalm 139, verses 1-11 can be found in your bulletin and, in your prayer books on page 794. Let us read it responsively by half verse. *Psalm 139:1-11*

Lord, you have searched me out and known me;

you know my sitting down and my rising up;

you discern my thoughts from afar.

You trace my journeys and my resting-places

and are acquainted with all my ways.

Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,

but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

You press upon me behind and before

and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;

it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

Where can I go then from your Spirit?

where can I flee from your presence?

If I climb up to heaven, you are there;

if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

If I take the wings of the morning

and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

Even there your hand will lead me

and your right hand hold me fast.

If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me,

and the light around me turn to night,"

Darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day;

darkness and light to you are both alike.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

[Introduction: The Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Rome about what it is to be a child of God. Whether it is through birth, as it is for the people of the Jewish faith through Abraham, or through the spirit of adoption for those who have been baptized and thus grafted into the tree of Abraham, all have the hope of a greater future with God. This version is translated by Eugene Peterson, as found in his groundbreaking biblical translation *The Message*. Hear now what the Spirit is saying to God's people.]

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans

Romans 8:15-25

This resurrection life you received from God is not a timid, grave-tending life. It's adventurously expectant, greeting God with a childlike "What's next, Papa?"

God's Spirit touches our spirits and confirms who we really are. We know who he is, and we know who we are: Father and children. And we know we are going to get what's coming to us—an unbelievable inheritance! We go through exactly what Christ goes through. If we go through the hard times with him, then we're certainly going to go through the good times with him!

That's why I don't think there's any comparison between the present hard times and the coming good times. The created world itself can hardly wait for what's coming next. Everything in creation is being more or less held back. God reins it in until both creation and all the creatures are ready and can be released at the same moment into the glorious times ahead. Meanwhile, the joyful anticipation deepens.

All around us we observe a pregnant creation. The difficult times of pain throughout the world are simply birth pangs. But it's not only around us; it's within us. The Spirit of God is arousing us within. We're also feeling the birth pangs. These sterile and barren bodies of ours are yearning for full deliverance. That is why waiting does not diminish us, any more than waiting diminishes a pregnant mother. We are enlarged in the waiting. We, of course, don't see what is enlarging us. But the longer we wait, the larger we become, and the more joyful our expectancy.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be God.

A reading from Matthew

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-40

Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like someone who planted good seed in his field. While people were sleeping, an enemy came and planted weeds among the wheat and went away. When the stalks sprouted and bore grain, then the seeds also appeared. "The servants of the landowner came and said to him, 'Master, didn't you plant good seed in your field? Then how is it that it has weeds?'

“‘An enemy has done this,’ he answered.

“The servants said to him, ‘Do you want us to go and gather them?’

“But the landowner said, ‘No, because if you gather the weeds, you’ll pull up the wheat along with them. Let both grow side by side until the harvest. And at harvest time I’ll say to the harvesters, ‘First gather the weeds and tie them together in bundles to be burned. But bring the wheat into my barn.’”

Jesus left the crowds and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.”

Jesus replied, “The one who plants the good seed is the Human One. The field is the world. And the good seeds are the followers of the kingdom. But the weeds are the followers of the evil one. The enemy who planted them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the present age. The harvesters are the angels. Just as people gather weeds and burn them in the fire, so it will be at the end of the present age. The Human One will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that cause people to fall away and all people who sin. He will throw them into a burning furnace. People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in their Father’s kingdom. Those who have ears should hear.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Sermon

Musical Reflection

The Apostles' Creed

BCP 96

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy universal Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.**

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Show us your mercy, O Lord;

And grant us your salvation.

Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

Let your people sing with joy.

Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
For only in you can we live in safety.
Lord, keep this nation under your care;
And guide us in the way of justice and truth.
Let your way be known upon earth;
Your saving health among all nations.
Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
Create in us clean hearts, O God;
And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

A Collect for Our Cities

BCP 825

Heavenly Father, in your Word you have given us a vision of that holy City to which the nations of the world bring their glory: Behold and visit, we pray, the cities of the earth. Renew the ties of mutual regard which form our civic life. Send us honest and able leaders. Enable us to eliminate poverty, prejudice, and oppression, that peace may prevail with righteousness, and justice with order, and that men and women from different cultures and with differing talents may find with one another the fulfillment of their humanity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Collect for Unity

BCP 818

O God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Savior, the Prince of Peace: Give us grace to lay to heart the great dangers we are in by our unhappy divisions; take away all hatred and prejudice, and whatever else may hinder us from godly union and concord; that, as there is but one Body and one Spirit, one hope of our calling, one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of us all, so we may be all of one heart and of one soul, united in one holy bond of truth and peace, of faith and charity, and may with one mind and one mouth glorify thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Collect for the Right Use of God's Gifts

BCP 827

Almighty God, whose loving hand hath given us all that we possess: Grant us grace that we may honor thee with our substance, and, remembering the account which we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of thy bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayers of petition with thanksgiving

Jesus said, "Do not be afraid. My word will produce good fruit."

We pray for those who are sick, those who suffer; we pray for all who protect us both here and abroad and for all healthcare workers.

We pray for those on our prayer list; especially, Downs IV, Holden, Heidi and Cynthia.

We pray for all who are in skilled nursing, especially Ruth, Timothy, Don and Barbara.

We pray for all who are in hospice care, especially Ward. We pray for healing and recovery for Pearl, Susan, John and Tom. We pray for those going through cancer treatments, especially Victoria, Andres and Ginny.

We pray that the Holy Spirit comfort those who cannot visit their loved ones, and for those who cannot be visited, and we pray that the wisdom and love of the Holy Spirit descend upon those who care for the sick.

We pray for those we name now either silently or aloud. *Silence*

We pray for those who have died, and for all who mourn, especially those we name now. *Silence*

Bring us the Living Bread that is broken and shared for the world;
Lord God, help us find peace in you. **Amen.**

Hear our prayers that we may love you with our whole being and willingly share the concerns of our neighbors. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Blessed Jesus, in union with the faithful gathered around the world today, I offer you praise and thanksgiving, for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life, death, and resurrection, for the means of grace and the hope of glory.

And particularly for the blessings given me that I name now ... *Silence*

I believe that you are present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot receive communion at this time, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; in the power of your gracious might, rule over every hostile power that threatens or disturbs the growth of your kingdom in me, in my family, and in my community, let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. **Amen.**

Come Lord Jesus, and dwell in my heart; guide me along the right pathways; and, conform my life and actions to the image of your holiness; who with the Father and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

And may the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep my heart and mind in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ my Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with me now and always. **Amen.**

Greetings and Announcements

Closing Hymn *God of day and God of darkness* verses 1, 3-4

God of day and God of darkness, now we stand before the night;
as the shadows stretch and deepen, come and make our darkness bright.

All creation still is groaning for the dawning of your might,
when the Sun of peace and justice fills the earth with radiant light.

You shall be the path that guides us, you the light that in us burns;
shining deep within all people, yours the love that we must learn
for our hearts shall wander restless 'til they safe to you return;
finding you in one another, we shall all your face discern.

Praise to you in day and darkness, you our source and you our end;
Praise to you who love and nurture as a father, mother, friend.
Grant us all a peaceful resting, let each mind and body mend,
So we rise refreshed tomorrow, hearts renewed to Kingdom tend.

Let us Bless the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Postlude

Dale Hooey

Announcements

Thank You to the exceptional work Ed Ortiz has done in regards to facility management, creating a maintenance committee, and accessibility planning for the near future. Thank you Ed!

Centering Prayer Centering Prayer invites you to pray with them, every day, at 8 am, wherever you are. When you enter into prayer at 8 am (Eastern), you will know that others are praying at the same time.

Discussion Group, the article for discussion with the Men's and Women's group is available on our website: www.allangelslbk.org. All discussion groups are currently on Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/5955701807> Meeting ID: 595 570 1807

The Big Yellow Bin Outside of the main entrance to the church by the angel fountain is the Manatee Food Bank drop off for nonperishable items. ECW and the Outreach Commission wants to thank you for your support of this effort; however, here are some guidelines that are especially important now that the bin is outside.

1. No glass jars

2. No cardboard boxed items until the bin can be inside. Moisture is a problem with the humidity.

3. Please check expiration dates.

What is especially needed:

Canned tuna, chicken, or salmon

Peanut butter or jelly (plastic container)

Canned soups, stews, chili,

Canned vegetables or fruit

Trail mix or dried fruit

Powdered milk

Dried beans

Infamil formula, baby food in plastic containers, diapers, baby wipes, Desitin cream

To give a donation go to: Meals on Wheels Plus.org or call 941-747-3663.

Birthdays & Anniversaries If you have a birthday or anniversary coming up next month, please email Linn Torres at lt@allangelslbk.org

Tidings If you are not receiving our electronic newsletter, Tidings, or if you have changed your email address, please email marialove@allangelslbk.org to be added.

Video The service today will be recorded and made available on YouTube and on our website: www.allangelslbk.org.

Reflection

Black Butterfly

On Sunday morning, before the 9:15 service, the largest butterfly I have ever seen – larger than the cover of the prayer book – was flying around the stained glass window. In addition to its size, another striking feature about this creature was its black coloring that absorbed light so it looked like a flying shadow; which was quite a contrast to the rising sun shining through the window and the bright white of our recently repainted ceiling. As I was worrying about the butterfly disrupting our upcoming service, it changed course, flew towards me, and then out into the narthex, and then outside through an open door into the angel fountain courtyard.

This is what I have experienced regarding out-of-place animal sightings: they can be interruptive, unexpected, and a sign from a deceased loved one expressing love, comfort and peace. Diane Gustafson, a parishioner at Saint John's, Chula Vista, and retired college librarian and professor of research skills, wrote a wonderful book titled, "I'll Bee There." In it, Diane shares stories of how the essence/soul of people who have passed make their presence known. Through conversations with her, I have come to accept that this phenomenon is something not to be scared of but rather to take such sightings in the spirit of God – in particular, they remind us of eternal love. As such, I had a hunch that seeing an out-of-place butterfly meant something to someone. Thus, to start the sermon, I asked, "Does a black butterfly mean anything to anyone here?" Much to my surprise, no one responded so I proceeded with my sermon.

After the service, Barbara, who is one of our outdoor ushers, told me this story: A couple of days before, a black butterfly flew around her lanai pool area, landing occasionally on exterior windows as if to be looking inside. She cracked open a screen door and it flew out. Then, on Saturday, on the balcony of a friend's house, after the sun had set into the Gulf, a black butterfly landed near them. It flew around a bit, landed again, and then flew away. And then, Sunday morning, she was sitting on a bench in the columbarium garden listening to the service and she heard me ask if a black butterfly means anything to anyone listening. She asked me if it was a sign of her (deceased) husband checking in on her. I believe it is and the butterfly is typically the symbol of new life. As a follow up, this week it kept on appearing to her and it likes to be near her dog who was her husband's companion and stayed by his side during his entire illness.

Linda, a friend and former parishioner in Chula Vista, who participates on Sunday morning on Zoom, emailed me this story: She got her first teaching job at the age of 21 to 5th graders in Brownsville, Texas. That year, a student told her a story that when her family lived in Mexico, a black butterfly flew by and they chased it all afternoon. She was told that it was the soul ("alma") of her grandfather who was playing with them.

Scripture tells us that nothing can separate us from the love of God. I think there are signs all around us of love, remembrance, hope and peace. Sometimes it takes something out of the ordinary, like a large black butterfly, for us to stop and take notice of God's eternal love.

- Fr. Dave