Sunday, August 22, 2021

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Officiant Ginny Schleihauf

1st Reading: 1 Kings 8: 22-30, 41-43

Psalm: 84

2nd Reading: Ephesians 6: 10-20

Gospel: John 6: 56-69

Sermon:

Jesus was not born in the house of royalty, or the house of riches, or the house of celebrity.

Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Of all the places God could have chosen, Bethlehem was where our Saviour was born

In the Hebrew language the city’s name means “HOUSE OF BREAD.”

How can we miss the connection to Jesus’ own declaration when He says,

“I am the living bread which came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh. ” (John 6:51).

In Jesus’ time, it was believed that God is the Creator of all life, and the life was seen as being in the blood. To consume anything with blood in it was to disregard the God who created that life. It was taking into the body something that was never intended to be there in the first place. This thought was primarily observed by the Jews.

So when Jesus teaches the difficult truth that we must rely on him for our life, and about our need to feast on who he is in order to live, the disciples were offended. John tells us in verse 66, “Because of this, many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him.”

The truth he spoke was offensive. It was scandalous. And they simply couldn’t accept it.

Jesus then asks the twelve disciples, “Do you also wish to go away?”

How might we have answered that question?

There comes a point in our lives where we have to make a choice: to believe or be offended. But, before the choice can be made, there is tension. We are confronted by Jesus’ scandal of self-giving love, and we face a profound tension that will lead either to offense or belief. It is this tension that holds within it the beautiful possibility of faith.

All of the disciples – the wider group following Jesus and the twelve – face this difficult teaching of Jesus. They also face the choice of offense or belief, and we watch many of Jesus’ followers turn back and walk away.

In the midst of the tension, Jesus sits with them and allows them to take it all in.

And then Simon Peter answers Jesus, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.” (John 6:68-69)

For Peter, profound tension was the beginning point of deep faith. Faced with the scandal of reliance on the very body and blood of Jesus, Peter found himself abiding in Christ.

John’s Gospel makes it clear that this is hard. The love of Christ is far more than we could ever believe or imagine. And confronted with that reality, we are shaken to the core. But Jesus not only speaks out and challenges us in the tension, he allows us to sit with it, and also take it all in.

The most amazing news of all is that the Word was made flesh and dwelled among us. The good news of the Gospel is that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus.

….Because He was born in the House of Bread, and has become our food for the journey of life. Amen

Today in lieu of memorial flowers from Gerry Rinker we remember the Rinker & Redden family members  
  
Canon Davis' Annual Fabulous Fish "Take Out" Dinner

Wednesday, September 15th

Adults $20.00.  Children $12.00

Payment in exact change in a sealed ziplock bag please.

Call Karen or leave a message at

519-344-9531 to request a pick up time between 4:30 pm & 6:30 pm