

July 19, 2023

From Fr. John

In last Sunday's Christian Formation class, we were nominally studying the story of Abraham. However, the discussion veered off in a different direction (as is often the case in classes that I lead). In this instance, we began discussing people doing bad things — particularly committing violence — in the name of God. We will revisit this topic on Sunday, if you would like to drop by.

That discussion, along with the reading from the Acts of the Apostles that is assigned for today's Morning Prayer, and the preparation I am doing for Sunday's sermon, all got me wondering what it really means to follow where God leads vs going where we want, and claiming godly authority.

A veritable library of books have been written on this subject, but I guess that the short-hand questions in the discussion are: 1. Can we commit violence in the name of God?; and 2. Does God actually call us to commit that violence?

The answer to number 1 is clearly, "Yes." You need look no further than the Crusades to see that (but there are many other examples). When we get to question 2 though, as Hamlet said, "There's the rub." Does God really call people to do bad things, or do people do bad things and attribute their motives to a call from God?

United Methodist minister and author, Adam Hamilton, put it well, when he said,

"If we use Jesus' words, and his great commandments, as a colander, we'll see that (these violent acts) contradict not only these great commands, but the very life and ministry of Jesus who was God's unmitigated Word."

I'll just leave that hanging there. Let's talk about it on Sunday.

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, be with you.

Fr. John+



Home Communion Tonight

During the course of the summer months, we at St. James gather as a faith community in the homes of parishioners for "table fellowship" – by breaking Bread during Holy Communion and then by breaking bread together for our dinner meal. Host families provide the entrée while guests provide salads, sides, desserts, and drinks. Plan to join us for our July 19th (Wednesday) gathering at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Tish and Babson Fresh (3820 Rue Left Bank in Alexandria - off Brown's Bend Road behind Tractor Supply Co.).

If anyone is interested in hosting the August Home Communion, please contact Fr. John or the office.

Adult Christian Formation



We are beginning our study of the story of Abraham from the Book of Genesis. Come and join us in the parlor at 9:15 on Sunday mornings. Bring a cup of coffee, or your favorite beverage, and sit in. There is no preparation needed to join in the discussion.

WORSHIP



July 23rd

The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

In-person Worship at 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM
Childcare is available for the 10:30 AM service.

[Click on this link to join the 10:30 AM service.](#)

[Click here for the service bulletin.](#)

July 23, 2023
Evening Prayer
Online @ 5:00 PM

[Click on this link to join Evening Prayer.](#)

Meeting ID: 863 4898 4077

Passcode: 1620

[Click here for the order of service & reading.](#)



Prayer

Parish Prayer List

Please keep these members of our community in your prayers:

Carolyn Sterne, Becky Maxwell, Brady Brown, Heather Craig, Dr. Wesley Davis, Steve Caballero, Anna Stapleton, Shannon Norman, Janelle Prindle, Jimmy Perkins, Ann Vanderslice, Charles Robinson, Belle Chatelain, Larry, Eleanor, Carli McGinty, Fr. John, Lacy Shaw, Sam Bejach, Lawrence, Liz McSween, Beth Courtney, Holly Craig, Kip Hogue, Jim Bristol, Ellen Moore, Mother Meredith Ward, Pat Carter, Beth Hebert, Rita Clancey, Jimmy Hurt, Carol Rowe, Barbara Baldwin, Louise Carter, Donnie Hayes, John Brewer, Fred Alexius, Paula Lieberman, Robbie G., Jonathan Rhea, Minnie Mikell, Massi Jordan, Pepe Rizzo, Bonnie McLellan, Michael Sterne, Jim Leggett, Cackie, Bernard Parker, Kristie Fresh, Andrea, Janet & Carl Ahrens, Jeff and Anne, Lillian DeVille, Wilma Filipi, Stephen, Natosha and Family, Fran Barbato, Kevin Delaney, Gail, Charlotte Sterling, Matthew Fontanille, Andrew, Shirley Christian, Susan Webster, Chase Barnfield, Taylor Thompson, Johnnie Hart, Jane Y. Harris, Kyle, James Jay Watts, Beth Virden, Glenn Guillory, Elda Schoolcraft, Mesta Bain, Dean M. Tyree, Beverly Butler, Murel Trimble, Emily Warren, Bill Leibke, Wayne Moorehead, Donna House, Dayna Hill, Jane Tyson, and Mehre Hajighassem.

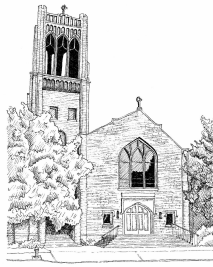
For those in the military:

Kyle Jordan, Samuel Hayes, Franklin Watson, Donal McCarthy, Michael Geiger, Erskine Cook, Jr., Patrick Downs, and Chris Babcock.

For those celebrating birthdays in July (day):

Brooksy Semple (3), Dave Curry (4), Judy Curry (7), Josh Brown (10), Bill Henderson (10), Ulla Knoepp (12), Caroline Theus (14), Monroe Adams (16), Jamie Lemoine (18), Sailor Ellzey (23), William Maynard (23), Mary Cozad (25), Cullen Theus (27), Martha

Walker (28).



Visit our Website

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