

ST. BEDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, LOS ANGELES, CA
THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
August 22, 2010

Welcome to St. Bede's Church. We're pleased that you have chosen to worship here today. If you are visiting, please sign the guest book or fill out the card in the Visitor's packet, and join the congregation downstairs in the parish hall for refreshments after the service. If you are unfamiliar with the ritual customs of the Episcopal Church, simply relax with the liturgy and let the rest of the congregation carry you in worship. The rest rooms, nursery and classrooms are located downstairs off the parish hall.

In today's reading from the Gospel of Luke, Jesus confronts the religious leaders over their rigid interpretation of scripture. His healing of the bent woman is a manifestation of God's goodness, not a disregard of God's law.

The writer of the Letter to the Hebrews reminds us that we are no longer merely part of this world, which is passing away. We are part of the divine life and of the ongoing sweep of God's story of salvation.

We gather in the Eucharist in a community of faith which transcends time and space -- an eternal family, whose life and joy is the result of placing God before all things. The Eucharist is a foretaste of the heavenly feast, but it is not the feast itself. We are called to persevere in the faith that will lead us to feast at God's table in the kingdom which is coming.

From *The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year*. Copyright 1998 by Michael W. Merriman. Church Publishing Incorporated, New York.

The Rt. Rev. J. Jon Bruno D.D. is the Bishop of Los Angeles

The Very Rev. Canon James Newman M. Div. is the Rector of St. Bede's Parish & Dean of Deanery 3

The Rev. Vicki Mouradian, M.A. is the Assistant • The Rev. Giovan King, D. Min. is the Associate

Mr. Frank Basile is the Director of Music

Canon Annette Graw is the President of Deanery 3, Diocese of Los Angeles

Ms. Rea Crane & Ms. Carly Portalupi are the Wardens of this Parish

Lay Canons of the Diocese of Los Angeles: Annette Graw, Edmonde Haddad, Wes Hartley, Ruth Nicastro

- *Nursery care is available downstairs. We also have speakers in the patio should your child wish to go outside*
- *You are invited to receive communion at the Lord's Table.*
- *If you wish a pastoral call, please see a member of the Clergy or the Vestry member on duty.*
- *Items to be included in the bulletin must be at the office by the preceding Tuesday morning.*

ST. BEDE'S CHURCH

The Episcopal Parish of Mar Vista, Venice, Ocean Park, Marina del Rey & Playa Vista
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INTERCESSIONS

◆ We pray for the Archbishop of Canterbury; Katharine, our Presiding Bishop; Jon, Diane & Mary, our bishops, and James, Vicki & Giovan, our clergy; for Frank-Joaquin-Tom-RoseMarie-Michael & Jeannette, our lay staff & for the clergy & people of St. Andrew's with St. Agnes in Romford, England and St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Los Angeles. In our parish, we pray for those who assist in the parish office & help maintain the Church and the grounds..

◆ **[*ANGLICAN CYCLE OF PRAYER: PRAY for The Anglican Church of Southern Africa The Most Revd Thabo Cecil Makgoba Archbishop of Capetown;***

◆ ***DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER: Congregations: St. Bartholemew's Church (Pico Rivera), St. Augustine-by-the-Sea Church (Santa Monica); Clergy: G. William Leeson; Widows: Elizabeth Riek.]***

◆ We pray for Barack, our President; Arnold, our Governor; & the mayors of our cities. We pray for peace in the world & remember all those serving their countries at home and abroad, especially those we name ...

◆ We remember the **ill & those in need:** Frank, Linda, Dulcie, Mary, Michael, Edmonde, Harriet, John, Elsie, Daniel, Joe, Wes, Peggy, Kim, Frances, Kanan, Jo, Peggy, Marilyn, Will, Steven, David, Dan, Kelly, Eileen, Michael, Caleb, Dennis, ...

◆ We remember those who have **died:** ...

◆ The **flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in thanksgiving for the last 32 years by Jim Newman AND in memory of his mother Dorothy Mullins by Michael Mullins AND in loving memory of her brother Vlademir by Liudmila Davis; **the Sanctuary lamp** is lighted this week to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for her daughter Laura Lake by Nancy Mills AND in memory of his brother Leslie Mullins by Michael Mullins.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

WEDNESDAY - Louis of France:

Wisdom 3.1-9; Ps. 21.1-7; Colossians 2.6-10;
Luke 12.22-31

SUNDAY – Pentecost 14/Proper 17:

Jeremiah 2.4-13; Ps. 81.1, 10-16; Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16;
Luke 14:1,7-14

CLERGY SCHEDULE

(available for office appointments or confessions)

Canon Jim

M: 10 am - 4 pm.

Mthr. Vicki

Canon Jim & Mthr. Vicki will be on pilgrimage till 9/4. For a pastoral call or in case of emergency, please call the office @ 310-391-5522

THIS WEEK AT ST. BEDE'S

DATE	TIME	EVENT
TODAY	1 pm	Women of Bede
	3 pm	Needlers of Bede
	6 pm	Evening Prayer
Wednesday	7 pm	Evening Worship
Sunday	8 & 10 am	Holy Eucharist
	<i>[Hosts: 8/E. & Z. Householder; 10/ Amy Dugrè]</i>	
	9 am	Choir rehearsal
	9.45 am	Nursery
	6 pm	Evening Prayer

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The **Pentecost Quill & August Calendar** is available on line and in the narthex rack. **Deadline** for the Sept./Oct. Quill is TODAY
- **EARLY CHRISTMAS: AIDS Project** – We need new toys for children & help with stamps as each client (228) receives a stamped Christmas card to send where they wish; also looking for gifts (\$10 gift cards) for 228 adolescents; also shampoos or soaps fr.hotels
- We need 3-5 more **Counters!!!** See Fr. Jim or Christoph.
- Next **OPCC/Turning Point** on October 30.
- **Bookworms of Bede** will discuss:
10/18 - *Life Among the Lutherans*, G. Keillor
12/13 -

SERVING TODAY

Presiding & Preaching (8): The Rev. Victoria Mouradian
Lay Minister (8): Dennis Doherty
Lector (8): Roger Jayne &/or Diana Turella
Greeter (8): Ron Zullo
Healing Chapel (8): Gina Turella
Refreshments (8): Quinn & Jim Kelley

Preiding (10): The Rev. Canon Jim Newman
Assisting & Preaching (10): The Rev. Victoria Mouradian
Music Director (10): Frank Basile
Vocal Section Leaders (10): Anita Van Tellingen; Cynthia Rothschild; Ben Enright; Joe Montgomery
Lay Ministers (10): Angus Mackay, Diane Gandara, Kim Hudson, Katie Nicastro, Peggy Levenstein, Dean Pace, Ashkan Sobhe, Samira Tamer, Adelaide Vaughn
Greeters (10): Russ Harter, Penny Jennings
Healing Chapel (10): Kim Hudson
Refreshments (10): Jim & Liudmila Davis

Vestry Member on Duty: Mike Mullins

Counters: Joyce Matlack & Tana Raikes

Embracing ‘holy awkwardness’ in interfaith experiences

By Bowie Snodgrass

Episcopalians are part of a church with a long history of interreligious relations. The 2009 “Theological Statement on Interreligious Relations” passed by General Convention reminds us that “prominent Episcopalians were involved in the first World Parliament of the Religions in 1893.” To this day, there are myriad international, national, and local examples of Episcopalians engaging in interreligious activities.

In interfaith relations, whether we are involved as a guest, host, or on neutral ground, there is at first a degree of awkwardness. At Faith House Manhattan (www.faithhousemanhattan.org), “an experiential inter-religious community that comes together to deepen our personal and communal journeys, share ritual life and devotional space, and foster a commitment to social justice and healing the world,” which I helped found in 2008, we embrace the gift of encountering God in the other as “holy awkwardness” and an indispensable spiritual discipline of the 21st century.

The story of the three visitors to Abraham’s tent (Gen. 18:1–15) reminds us that hospitality and awkwardness often go hand in hand. Below is the story as told in the Koran:

Has the story reached thee, of the honored guests of Abraham? Behold, they entered his presence, and said: “Peace!” He said, “Peace!” [and thought, “These seem] unusual people.” Then he turned quickly to his household, brought out a fatted calf, and placed it before them . . . he said, “Will ye not eat?” [When they did not eat], he conceived a fear of them. They said, “Fear not,” and they gave him glad tidings of a son endowed with knowledge. But his wife came forward (laughing) aloud: she smote her forehead and said: “A barren old woman!” They said, “Even so has thy Lord spoken: and he is full of wisdom and knowledge.”

—Surah 51:24-30, translated by Hafiz Abdullah Yusuf Ali)

In the Genesis account, Abraham has to hurry around after offering food to the strangers, asking Sarah to make bread and the servant to prepare a tender calf. In the Koran, Abraham becomes fearful when the guests do not eat the slain calf. In both stories, the hostess, Sarah, laughs aloud when the guests foretell that she will bear a son. Like Abraham bringing forth the fatted calf, we long to share our treasures and have them appreciated. But, how can we find a way forward when we are afraid to offend?

Faith House invites people to events, which are designed to be

a safe space to “experience your neighbor’s faith.” We host living room gatherings twice a month with a leader who is deeply rooted in his/her tradition and a particular theme, where some learn about their own tradition through the eyes of the other, and new friendships begin and grow. We also practice being guests by going on field trips, where we step out of our comfort zones and visit religious services around the city.

Most people who come to Faith House are observant in a primary tradition and come to Faith House to encounter other traditions, genuinely curious and convinced that being interreligious is part of our future and something we need to figure out together — appropriately, playfully, hopefully, and prayerfully — in this pivotal time in history.

Phyllis Tickle states in her book *The Great Emergence* that “the two overarching, but complementary questions of the Great Emergence are: (1) What is human consciousness and/or the humanness of the human? and (2) What is the relation of all religions to one another — or, put another way, how can we live responsibly as devout and faithful adherents of one religion in a world of many religions?”

Tickle’s second question is where I have directed my passion and work with Faith House, recognizing that I am part of a larger phenomenon. A 2008 Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life survey found that 70 percent of Americans believe that “many religions can lead to eternal life,” while 83 percent of mainline Christians shared this belief.

God is doing something new and calling us to participate in different ways — through worshiping together, interfaith dialogue, social justice and community organizing with people of other faiths, and experiments in interreligious community, like Faith House Manhattan.

God knows our awkwardness, but blesses us anyway. Sarah did conceive and have a son, and she named him Isaac, meaning laughter, to remind her that laughter is our response to holy awkwardness and a sign that God is “full of wisdom and knowledge” beyond that which we can comfortably grasp.

This essay is a condensed version of “Has the story reached thee, of the honored guests of Abraham?” which appeared in the Winter 2010 issue of Anglican Theological Review. Bowie Snodgrass is executive director of Faith House Manhattan and a member of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York City. Previously she worked in the Office of Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations and the Office of Communication at the Episcopal Church Center.



Bowie Snodgrass

