

**Church of the Divine Love**

**TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**PROPER 26**

**OCTOBER 31, 2021**

**10:15 A.M.**

**HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II**

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn #551 – Rise up, ye saints of God!

Opening Acclamation page 355

Collect for Purity page 355

Gloria (S-280 in hymnal) page 356

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **Deuteronomy 6:1-9**

Psalm 119:1-8

Second Lesson: **Hebrews 9:11-14**

Gradual Hymn #525, vs. 1,2,4,5 – **The Church's one foundation**

Gospel: **Mark 12:28-34**

Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze

Nicene Creed page 358

Prayers of the People, Form VI page 392

The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn #382 – **King of glory, King of peace**

Doxology (sung)

The Great Thanksgiving:	
Eucharistic Prayer A	page 361
Sanctus (S-130 in hymnal)	page 362
The Lord's Prayer	page 364
The Breaking of the Bread, Anthem & Prayer	page 337
The Communion of the People	
Communion Hymn – <b>#325 – Let us break bread together</b>	
Post Communion Prayer	page 365
Prayer for Peace – on back of bulletin	
Prayer of St. Francis	page 833
Dismissal Hymn <b>#618 – Ye watchers and ye holy ones</b>	

### **Sermon Sunday October 31st, 2021**

Deuteronomy 6:1-9; Psalm 119:1-8; Hebrews 9:11-14; Mark 12: 28-34

#### **Sisters and brothers in Christ,**

**“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind,” and “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Mark 12: 30-31)**

These, Jesus says, are the two commandments on which everything else hangs. They are two sides of the same thing. You can't truly have one without the other. This is about more than our feelings or affection for God and one another. It's about our commitment to the life and well-being of the other. It's a choice we make every day, to love or not to love.

I wonder what that love looks like. I wonder what your life and my life would be like if we held those two commandments as the guiding principles for all we do. I wonder what we might create and achieve if we embodied and lived those commandments. Here's another way of getting at what I am asking. What kind of world do you want to live in? What kind of world do you want for your children, grandchildren, and those who will come after you? What are your best wishes and hopes for the future of the world, our country, this city? What do you pray for when you look at everything that is happening today?

Here are some of the things I want, wish, and pray for. I want a world that is founded on human dignity and respect for one another. I want a world in which people come first, a world in which principles and policies support people rather than agendas. I want justice for all and not just those who can afford it, who have power. I want a world in which different religions and beliefs are valued and viewed as a means for all to meet the Divine. I want a world in which diversity and difference are celebrated rather than oppressed, a world in which people and nations are at peace with themselves and one another. I

want a world in which we face and learn from our past, mistakes, and failures so that we can do and be better.

I want a world in which everyone has living wage employment, educational opportunities, access to healthcare, safe and decent housing; enough to eat. I want a world in which the first, maybe even the only, judgment we make is that the needs, concerns, sorrows, hopes, dreams, and lives of others matter as much as our own. Don't you want those same things too? Isn't that the kind of world you want to live in and pass on to the next generation? What else would you add to my list?

Ultimately, that list points to a world in which we love God, and our neighbor as ourselves. We say that's what we want, but is it really? Do we really believe those are the two commandments on which everything else hangs? Are they really what orient the direction of our hearts and determine the things to which we give our time, money, and energy?

I want to say yes to those questions but I'm just not so sure anymore. I look at what's happening in our world today and I'm not sure we fully believe or live those two commandments. If we did, wouldn't our world be different? How could we separate children from their parents and possibly never reunite them? Why do we seem more energized by blame, name calling, and finger pointing than working together for a solution? "Love God," Jesus says. Yes, but what is it that I love when I say I love God? Said (St. Augustine). Have you ever thought about that? I can't help but wonder if nationalism, individual rights, and self-interest have displaced God as our first love. If God was our first love wouldn't God's concerns, dreams, and hopes for the world be ours too? A wise man once told me, "We love others best when we love God first and most."

"Love your neighbor," Jesus says. Yes, it's a value I claim to hold in my life. It's something I teach and preach. And yet, I don't even know the names of the people who live across the street or two houses down from mine. How could I possibly know their hurts, hopes, or needs? What about you? How are you loving your neighbor? One of the things I know about myself, and maybe this is true for you too, is that I can always find the time, money, and energy for the things that really matter to me. And regardless of how much I have I will never have enough time, money, and energy for the things that don't matter to me. I hope you know that I'm not talking about the quantity of my hours or dollars, but the quality and shape of my commitments.

When I look at my wish list and listen to my prayers for the world, I have to ask myself, "What am I doing to bring that world into existence?" What are you doing? It's not enough to only want, wish, or pray for that world. Love is a verb, an action. I'm afraid those two great commandments have become like an old favorite song. The tune has been so overplayed that it no longer calls us to the dance floor. The words are so familiar that we no longer hear them. We have lost our passion for the music. We still like the song, but we are no longer singing it, and if we are it's only for the God who comforts, affirms, and comes through for us; only for the neighbor who looks, acts, thinks, worships, and votes like us.

I don't know what that is but that's not love. The love Jesus speaks about is all or nothing. We love God first or not at all. We love everyone or no one. The only measure of love is love without measure. What if you asked someone, do you love me? And after a long and awkward pause and considerable deliberation he or she said, well, up to a certain point, under certain conditions, to a certain extent, yes, I do. You have your answer and it's not what you wanted to hear. We all know that's not love.

The mark of really loving someone or something is unconditionality and excess, engagement and commitment, fire, and passion. Where is that today in your life, my life, and the life of our country and this city? Who is the recipient of that love and who is not? And what would it take for you and me to expand the circle of our loving? Do we even want to? So, what's the hope in this message? And you would be right to ask that question. I asked myself that exact question. And here's my answer: You are, I am.

You and I are the hope that runs throughout this message. You and I are the hope of the next generation. Jesus Christ is the source of our hope, and in his Spirit the church shows forth the light of hope into the darkness of the world. You and I are the hope for our country and this city. You and I are love's only hope in this world. More importantly, there is liberation in a willingness to trust God enough to believe that neighbors are the same as we are. They have the same dreams and desires to love the Lord and to follow God as faithful disciples. They, too, have picked up their crosses and have made the commitment to follow Jesus. What greater love is there? The Good News from Jesus is that this kind of love is achievable. It is possible to love others so much that polarization ends, and healing begins. **Amen!**

#### 23 PENTECOST

10:15 AM      HOLY EUCHARIST, II      (also on zoom)

11:15 AM      VESTRY MEETING

#### MONDAY- ALL SAINTS' DAY

8:00 AM      AA MEETING

#### WEDNESDAY

7:00 PM      AL-ANON MEETING

#### THURSDAY

10AM-2PM      THRIFT SHOP

8:00 PM      AA MEETING

#### SATURDAY

10AM-2PM      THRIFT SHOP

SUNDAY – 24 PENTECOST

SUNDAY AFTER ALL SAINTS' DAY

10:15 AM

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

(also on zoom)

SUPPORT THE FOOD DRIVE – DROP-OFF IN THE KITCHEN

Hymn to be sung during the consecration:

Father I adore you,

Lay my life before you

How I love you.

Repeat twice with second verse starting with Jesus

And third verse starting with Spirit

### **PARISH PRAYER LIST**

Give to all who suffer the refreshing waters of your compassion and healing.  
Make them dwell in the safety of your care even in the midst of all that troubles  
them. Especially we remember before you:

Girard Bishop

Chrissy Neville

Dorothy

Nathan Treadwell

John Loubengeiger

Del

Chris Dickson

Kate Jones

Julia

Michael Echevarria

John Rocco

John Scally

Martinisi Family

Michael & Family

Warren

Charlotte H.

Bernie Walther

Sylvia

Mo (Rachael)	Bill Conklin Sr.	Laura
Anthony Paribello	Barbara Curran	Taylor
Ciara	Elodie	Gabriel
Aidan	Christopher & Family	Victims of Natural Disasters People of Haiti & Missionaries who were Kidnapped

Help us to speak words of encouragement and offer deeds of kindness to them. Bring us with them, into the unending joy of your kingdom. Amen

Prayer for Peace

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn

but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominions and glory, now and forever. Amen. *BCP Page 815*