

Homily "Ancestry" (Part 2)

"Who has loved you to this place?"

by Lara Fuchs

Musical Meditation

"We Are" (Ysaye Barnwell performed by The Desmond & Leah Tutu Peace Choir)

Benediction

Go out into the highways and by-ways.

Give the people something of your new vision.

You may possess a small light, but uncover it, let it shine, use it in order to bring more light and understanding to the hearts and minds of men and women.

Give them not hell, but hope and courage;

Preach the kindness and everlasting love of God.

—John Murray

Extinguishing the Chalice

In unison:

We extinguish this flame but not the light of truth, the warmth of community, or the fire of commitment. These we carry in our hearts until we are together again.

Postlude

"They Live in You"

(Music and lyrics by Mark Mancina, Jay Rifkin, and Lebo M, performed by Samuel E. Wright)

Announcements

January 3, 14:00 — Discussion Group, Hainerberg Chapel

January 17, 14:00 — Sunday Service, Hainerberg Chapel

Coffee Hour & Discussion of the Homily



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"Ancestry"



Homily by Lara Fuchs
Led by Emily Searle-White



December 20th, 2015

Love is the doctrine of this church.
The quest for truth is its sacrament.
And service is its prayer.

Prelude

"Breaths" (Ysaye Barnwell, performed by Sweet Honey in the Rock)

Welcome and Greeting of One Another

Opening Words

"We come into this space, some with joy in our hearts, some with sorrow. Here may we find both salvation and solace. We come to be reminded of our commitments, and history. Here may we find strength for the journey ahead. May we know that we are not alone. By our presence we make this space holy. Come, let us worship together."

—Rev. Bill Sinkford

Chalice Lighting

In unison:

"At times our own light goes out, and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us."

—Albert Schweitzer

Sharing of Joys and Concerns



Hymn No.1

"This Little Light of Mine" (#118, Singing the Living Tradition)

Story for All Ages

"Chanukah Story"

Go now in peace, go now in peace. May the spirit of love surround you, everywhere, everywhere you may go.

Offertory

"Light One Candle" (by Peter Yarrow, performed live by Teresa & Michael Zink)

First Reading

We are in the midst of Advent in the Christian lectionary, Hanukkah in the Jewish calendar and the Yule time in the Pagan tradition. Once again a time of religious overlay which, like Easter and Passover, reminds us of a sacred time

of the year. What all these holy days have in common is the hope that light will forever return after darkness. This is the time of year when the encroaching darkness brings us closer together with the promise that we will find our way through the night to days lengthening in joy and promise.

I am well aware of how difficult this time of year can be for those of us who are missing loved ones away and gone. The joy of the season is not in the loss of their light, but in the invitation to find the light in others and our beloved community. The special worship services of December are an invitation to join together and with our love bring back the light. I invite you to join especially this year as we face our own personal loss and our collective tragedies of heartbreak.

Advent begins by reminding us of the coming darkness, leading up to the new birth of Light on Christmas Day. There is poignancy in this story: A reminder that it is darkest before the dawn but the dawn always arrives and that arrival is the joy of these Holy Days, the ancient reason for the season.

—Rev. John Morehouse

Homily "Ancestry" (Part 1)

"Beacons of Faith"

by Lara Fuchs



Hymn No.2

"We are Dancing Sarah's Circle" (#212, Singing the Living Tradition)

Second Reading (responsive)

In the struggles we choose for ourselves, in the ways we move forward in our lives and bring our world forward with us,

It is right to remember the names of those who gave us strength in this choice of living. It is right to name the power of hard lives well-lived.

We share a history with those lives. We belong to the same motion.

They too were strengthened by what had gone before. They too were drawn on by the vision of what might come to be.

Those who lived before us, who struggled for justice and suffered injustice before us, have not melted into the dust, and have not disappeared.

They are with us still. The lives they lived hold us steady.

Their words remind us and call us back to ourselves. Their courage and love evoke our own. We, the living, carry them with us: we are their voices, their hands and their hearts.

We take them with us, and with them choose the deeper path of living.

—Rev. Kathleen McTigue ("They Are with Us Still")