



The Rev. Alan Sutherland, Rector

Sunday, June 3, 2007

## TRINITY SUNDAY

Two weeks ago I was at George Rogers Clark High School in Clark County to award the Rachel Sutherland memorial scholarship. When my daughter Rachel was killed in a car wreck 3 years ago this scholarship was created to be given each year in memory of Rachel to a student who has shown outstanding community service. It is a memorial to what kind of a person Rachel was. At Rachel's memorial service at the Cathedral Domain, on the service bulletin were these words;

“Life is not measured by the number of breaths you take, but by the moments that take your breath away.”

This quote is a simplified statement of what the English poet W. H. Davies, in his autobiography, wrote. He says, “Let us not judge life by the number of breaths taken but by the number of times the breath is held back, or lost, either under a deep emotion caused by love, or when we stand before an object of interest or beauty.”

To have one's breath taken away, or lost, is verified this morning in our Old Testament reading, our canticle and our New Testament reading.

Isaiah, the canticle writer, and John are all dazzled by images of beauty and mystical magnitude. These visions of God have such a deep impact that it changes their lives. The vision of God on a throne, high and lifted up, in the splendor of a temple with a sea of glass surrounding it.

Now many of us have never experienced such magnificent visions of God. Yet each of us has had our moments of being lifted up, of having an extraordinary experience in our ordinary lives. Those moments we have had our breath taken away. The moments when the closeness of God is such a reality, and such an intense experience.

For many of us though, those moments have become few and far between. Why should that be?

What has happened to us that God now seems to be so distant from us?

For some of us we have become jaded and disillusioned that we no longer feel the presence of God in our lives. We no longer sense the presence of God at work in the world around us.

For some of us we have enthroned other things than God in our lives so that it is not God that entralls us.

For some it is living in a disposable society that sees fad and fashions blindly followed and, when it is out of fashion, move on to the next thing.

For some it is so because our hearts are too heavy with guilt or shame that our heads are looking down and we cannot, or maybe we have been told that we should not, or are not, worthy to lift them to see God.

When I look at Jesus there is something that Jesus did that helped and encouraged people to see God. Not in some magnificent vision, but God's presence with his children.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*Established in 1847*

210 North Main Street Versailles, KY 40383 859.873.3481 [info@stjohnsky.com](mailto:info@stjohnsky.com) [www.stjohnsky.com](http://www.stjohnsky.com)



The Rev. Alan Sutherland, Rector

Sunday, June 3, 2007

He made them look up.

He made the disciples look up and see the widow putting her mite into the treasury and Jesus saw and knew the presence of God.

He made the woman caught in adultery look up and see if anyone had stayed to accuse her and this woman saw and knew the presence and forgiveness of God.

Jesus said, 'look up and see that the field are ripe with harvest, if only you can see beyond yourselves.'

He said, 'look up and see the sower planting his seed and I will tell you about God.'

When the prodigal son returned home it was the father that looked up and saw his son and ran and welcomed him.

Jesus sat a child on his lap and when the child looked up Jesus said, 'I will show you what God's kingdom is like.'

To have our breath taken away, maybe we need to take time from looking down at the so called issues that are consuming our lives, draining our energies, and begin to look up and see God's presence around us.

For most of us, when we look up, we will not see what Isaiah, the psalmist, or John saw.

But for all of us, if we would only look up we will see people being forgiven and getting second chances.

Look up and you will see people from the north and south, the east and the west, gathered at this banquet table of the community of faith called St. Johns.

Look up and see the children of God being welcomed, accepted and cared for.

When we see these things and become part of them then we will see God enthroned in our lives and in our community of faith.

We will see the holy in what appears to be the ordinary.

We will see God in what we just thought was a simple act of kindness.

We will see the noble in what we thought was a simple act of love.

We will see majesty in the acceptance of people as God's children and not how we would want them to be.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*Established in 1847*

210 North Main Street Versailles, KY 40383 859.873.3481 [info@stjohnsky.com](mailto:info@stjohnsky.com) [www.stjohnsky.com](http://www.stjohnsky.com)



The Rev. Alan Sutherland, Rector

Sunday, June 3, 2007

We will see the kingdom as we take a good look around us at our fellow travelers.

And then we will have our breath taken away in wonder and in awe because God has called us to be part of what God is doing in us, and through us, and because of us.

The vision God wants us to have is not of a temple in some far off place. The vision God wants for us is a vision of the reality of God, the mission of God, the love of God, right here.

So look up, look around, and see the majesty of what God has already done, is doing and will continue to do. Maybe then we will measure our life not by the number of breaths we take but by the moments that take our breath away.

Amen

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*Established in 1847*

210 North Main Street Versailles, KY 40383 859.873.3481 [info@stjohnsky.com](mailto:info@stjohnsky.com) [www.stjohnsky.com](http://www.stjohnsky.com)