



The Rev. Alan Sutherland, Rector

October 21, 2007

Pentecost 21

Children's sermon

Has anybody ever been to the beach?

What did you like?

I like the sand and ocean.

We were there last week and we walked along the beach every day. In the mornings the water was about 20 yards away from where we sat on the sand. When we walked we could see our footprints in the sand.

Other people had walked and you could see where they had been. Kids had made sandcastle cities and some people even wrote things in the sand.

In the afternoon though, the tide began to come in.

Do you know what means to have tide come in. the water line moves from 20 yards away where were sitting to one yard away.

What is amazing is as the tide comes in all these footprints, all these sand castle cities, all that writing in the sand gets leveled out. It disappears.

Every time the tide comes in it takes everything away and makes a new flat surface to write other stuff, put new footprints, and build new sandcastle cities.

The collect this morning talks of forgiving us those things our consciences might be afraid.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Established in 1847

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Sometimes we do stuff that we think God will not forgive us for. Our consciences are afraid.

Yet Gods forgiveness is like the tide. Foe those things that we are afraid that God will not forgive us, no matter what footprints we have left in the sand of our life, no matter what we might have written in the sand of our life, no matter what city we have built in the sand of our life, god comes and takes it away and leaves a new surface. A new sand for a new beginning. Then it is up to us if what we did was wrong we have the choice to do what is right.

If it hurt somebody we are moved to apologize and make amends.

If we have built something on lies and deceit it is time to rebuild on openness and honesty.

God's forgiveness, Gods grace is always looking to wash away our sins and offer us a new beginning. Not just once but every moment.

Amen

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