



The Rev. Alan Sutherland, Rector

December 28, 2008

1 Christmas 2008

A little girl came to her mom and asked her a question- What is God like?

Not knowing exactly how to answer, the mom said why don't you ask your father?

Next though the little girl asked her teacher and did not get a satisfactory answer so she finally asked her dad. He was pretty busy so he just passed over the question as quickly as he could.

Soon after all that the mom was cleaning the little girl's room and she found a poem that had been written by the girl.

It said;

'I asked my mom what God was like and she didn't know

I asked my teacher what God was like and she didn't know

I asked my daddy who knows more than anyone else in the whole world what God was like.

And he didn't know.

I think when I am as old as my mom and dad I will know something about God'.

Our gospel today is called the prologue and it tells us a lot about God and Jesus.

In the beginning was God and he was god and he was the word and the word became flesh.

A father and son were walking along a beach and were talking of god and Jesus. Is Christ all of God asked the son. The father stopped and picked up a shell and scooped some ocean water into it and showed it to his son. This is not all the ocean said the father but it is all of the ocean that you can get into this shell. In the same way all of God that can be got into a person is in Jesus Christ.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Established in 1847

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So the question about what is God like we must first look at Jesus. God became flesh.

But then more importantly in this prologue is that to all who received Jesus, who believe in his name, he gives power to become children of God. To take in as much of the water of life as we want.

Today we affirm that power as we baptize

All of us have been given the power to become children of God.

And all of us make a choice to use the power we have.

We have power.

We have power to destroy and we have the power to build up.

We have the power to love and the power to hate.

We have the power to trust and we have the power to mistrust

We have the power to be kind and we have the power to be cruel

We have the power to give and we have the power to withhold.

We have the power of grace and we have the power to be mean

We have the power to be truthful and we have the power to lie

We have the power of honesty and we have the power to be dishonest.

We have the power to forgive and we have the power to harbor grudges and resentments.

All of us have been given power but it is up to us to make the choice of how we use that power. How much of the water of life that we are willing to take into our lives and how much of the life of God that we are willing to live through our lives.

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This week of Christmas we are told once again that we have been given power to choose how we can live and we as Christians have affirmed that we choose the way of Jesus.

On this Sunday before the new year when attention is being given to the new year, maybe our new years resolution will be to use the power that we have been given to reflect the love of Christ in how we live. When we choose to use the powers that God has given us to reflect the way of Christ we will continue to build a community of faith that will speak of love, speak of forgiveness, speak of welcome, speak of acceptance. A community that will show the power of God as seen in Jesus.

Not just to us who are here now but to generations to come so that when a little child asks what God is like we will have done our part, we will have shown as individuals and as a community of faith, the answer.

God is love.

What is happening here at St Johns to individuals and a community of faith has been born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of the will of God.

May 2009 see us make the choices that continue to reflect the will and the power of God.

Amen.

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