

The Anchor



Our Mission:

To know God, To love God. To make God known

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Diocese of Northern California

A Veteran Friendly Congregation

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July 2019

Today we hear a very familiar parable, the parable of the Good Samaritan. Many great preachers have preached on this story; one of these great preachers was the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

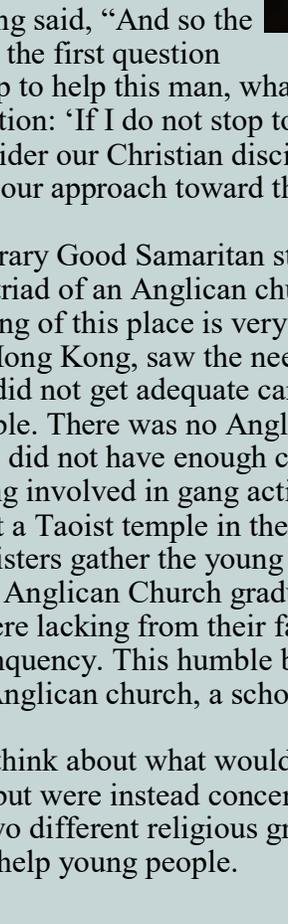
The day before Dr. King was assassinated, he gave his last speech in Memphis, Tennessee. In this address, he talked about this parable. Towards the end, he reflected on why the priest and the Levite did not stop for the traveler. He imagined that those men were simply afraid. The road from Jerusalem to Jericho was indeed dangerous. Dr. King said, "And so the first question that the priest asked, the first question that the Levite asked was, 'If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?'" But then the Good Samaritan came by, and he reversed the question: "If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?"

Dr. King helped us to consider our Christian discipleship with these good questions. The latter one should be the guiding principle of our approach toward those who are in need. What would happen to others if we would not offer help?

There is another contemporary Good Samaritan story that happened in a faraway place: Hong Kong. St. James' Settlement is a triad of an Anglican church, an Anglican school, and a community service center in Hong Kong. The beginning of this place is very inspiring. In 1949, the late Bishop Ronald Hall, who oversaw the Anglican Church in Hong Kong, saw the need to minister to a group of youth in a small town named Wanchai. The youth, who did not get adequate care from their working parents, were hanging out in this town and had gotten into trouble. There was no Anglican church in the area and there were very limited resources to start one. Bishop Hall did not have enough cash to rent a place to gather and minister to them. The need to keep them from getting involved in gang activities was great.

Bishop Hall then found out a Taoist temple in the neighborhood had some room available. He asked the monks to let the Anglican ministers gather the young people there. The monks let them use their temple space. By gathering the youth, the Anglican Church gradually formed clubs for boys and girls and offered them love and guidance, which were lacking from their families. These youths turned out well and escaped from the downward path into delinquency. This humble beginning of a Christian youth ministry in a Taoist temple eventually turned into an Anglican church, a school, and a community service center, and has helped millions of people in Hong Kong.

The Taoist monks did not think about what would happen to them and their sacred place if they let these Christians use their temple, but were instead concerned what would happen to the young people if they did not receive guidance. These two different religious groups were not concerned about their religious boundaries, but rather the need to help young people.



WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO HIM? PENTECOST 5

The Rev. Ada Wong Nagata



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Both Dr. King's questions and St. James' example demonstrate the parable of the Good Samaritan's lesson on how to be loving and compassionate to our neighbors. The Samaritan and the Taoist monks were concerned more about the wellbeing of the people rather than whether the people were from different faiths, backgrounds, or classes. They might have looked down on the people, or they might have been looked down upon by the people they were helping. What should we Christians do to be good neighbors?

In our world today, we have so many war-torn countries and many people flee to different parts of the world from human-caused disasters. We, the United States, are one of the receiving countries for these refugees. The refugees are of different cultures and different faiths. They are in desperate need for others to help them. Due to our human nature, just like the priests and Levites, it may be natural to fear what would happen to us by their coming here: that we might not have enough resources to go around, that we might be changed ourselves by different races, cultures, and faiths, and even the prospect that their might be "terrorists" among us.

In the gospel we read today, Jesus tells us, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." This is not the first time we read in the Bible about loving our neighbors; it has been written in the Hebrew Scriptures and different gospels.

According to what God teaches us and what Dr. King echoed, shouldn't we stop worrying about what would happen to us if we offered our help to these refugees, the strangers? Instead, we should be more concerned about what would happen to them if we were to neglect them. Think about it. If we showed them resentment instead of compassion, would we push them to join the terrorists or the gangs from whom they are running? The gangsters or terrorists may end up being the only people welcoming them.

We read that the prophet Amos prophesied the truth of God, though people did not like to hear it. The false prophet tried to silence him so as to please the king in power. As Amos claims, he was not a professional prophet, but an ordinary person being called by God. He was like the plumb line for God, guiding people on the way. He knew he would face danger but did what was right anyway. We are ordinary people, too, but also called by God through our baptism to tell God's truth, to have compassion for people in need, and to be good neighbors. However, when we Christians are reminded to love our neighbors who look different, speak different languages, and behave differently, we may not like to hear it either. The fear of scarcity, of uncertainty, can block us from hearing our call and seeing others' needs.

We are in the season after Pentecost. On Pentecost, we heard the miracles of ears and tongues that people understood each other, even when they spoke different languages. Br. James Koester of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist wrote in one of the daily reflections, *Brother, Give Us a Word*, about Pentecost, saying, "We need not fear any longer. We need not fear God, nor the other, nor death any longer, because Pentecost has healed Babel and Easter Day has healed Good Friday. This is the promise of Easter, and of Pentecost. And we share that promise as we emerge dripping wet from the waters of baptism, marked with the sign of the cross as Christ's own forever."

The promise of Pentecost is that the Holy Spirit dwells among us. Through the Holy Spirit, we can understand each other with one common language: love. With this common language of love, we can understand those in need and we can see those in misery. With this common language, we can offer compassion.

The United Nations has designated June 20 as World Refugee Day, and our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry commented in his 2019 World Refugee Day Message, "When we welcome the stranger, we welcome the Lord God himself. We welcome Jesus... On World Refugee Day, pray, learn about refugees, learn about what you can do, and do whatever you can to help the strangers in our midst."

The Rev. Dr. Ada Wong Nagata is an Episcopal priest, recently retired. She has served in parishes in the Dioceses of Los Angeles and New York. She serves on the General Convention Task Force on Church Planting and Congregational Redevelopment and is also an honorary canon of the Cathedral Center of St. Paul, Diocese of Los Angeles. Ada earned her Doctor of Ministry from Episcopal Divinity School in 2015. She loves hiking and meditative walk.

Senior Warden Report

As usual the Vestry is busy making repairs to the church as needed and making our church a center of worship, love and friendship. We are looking into what St. Clements will be like in 10 years and beyond. Our Sunday school has moved to Classroom #1 making a welcoming safe place for our children. New furniture is being looked into and a soft space in the back of the church is also in the works for our children. The church's playground is in need of replacing and the Vestry is getting estimates on costs to update the equipment, which needs to be commercial grade for insurance purposes.

Our Parish Hall is in need of painting and seating arrangements which makes it a more inviting area. Trees will be trimmed for safety and we have hired a pest control company to maintain the grounds from fleas any harmful critters,

We also welcomed Fr. Mike Kerrick to St. Clement's as an additional associate. Please make him feel welcome. And last but not least we welcomed our 8th Bishop, Revered Cannon Megan McClure Traquair on Saturday June 29th. It was a beautiful Consecration and Ordination at the Mondavi Center for the performing Arts. If you get a chance go to the Diocese website and look at the pictures from this wonderful event. www.norcalespiscopal.com

The Vestry would like you to tell your neighbors and friends to go to You tube and listen to Fr. Kenn's sermons each Sunday. It's worth listening too!

Have a blessed summer and see you at church on Sunday!

Blessings

Debbi Honeycutt

Education for Ministry (EfM)

Education for Ministry has finished this year of study and we will be starting a new session in the fall, tentatively on September 9, 2019. We are eager to have new members join us. We will meet on Mondays from 5-7:30 PM at St. Clements. If you are interested in participating please contact Laura Simkins at ldsimkins@comcast.net or call her at 916 425-3754. You will need to register by July 27 so materials can be ordered in a timely manner.

EfM is offered through Sewanee: The University of the South, School of Theology. EfM is a four year course of study, prayer and reflection for those interested in gaining a fuller understanding of God's kingdom. The course is taken on a year-by-year basis. Participants are given weekly assignments to study with the help of resource guides. Discussions are exciting and insightful! The goal of the group is to learn how to think theologically. Students are responsible for setting their own learning goals and can expect to spend between two to four hours in study and preparation each week. Sewanee requires a minimum of six people and a maximum of twelve in a group, and the fee is \$375.00 per year. Fees pay for the EfM materials and the honorarium for the mentor. We hope you will consider this exciting course of study. Further information is available on the website at: <http://efm.sewanee.edu>

ST. CLEMENT'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Lay Ministry Schedule for July 2019

	July 7	July 14	July 21	July 28
ALTAR GUILD	Stephen Soulman Muriel Murray	Sharon B-Polana Linda Simmons	Debbi Honeycutt Len Honeycutt	Jennifer Yee
USHERS	8:00 AM 10:00 AM Randy Grimwood Pam Quarles	Randy Grimwood Kent Ransom	Randy Grimwood Bill Murray	Randy Grimwood Pam Quarles
ACOLYTES	8:00 AM 10:00 AM Janelle Fallan Debbi Honeycutt	Chris Wash Emily Hyberg	Harry Shippy Emily Hyberg	Janelle Fallan Debbie Popp
LECTORS	8:00 AM 10:00 AM Jim Wash Len Honeycutt	Harry Shippy Lisa Barnett	Marj Heineke Muriel Murray	Ken Dunham Chuck Maxson
INTERCESSORS	8:00 AM 10:00 AM Harry Shippy Chuck Maxson	Jim Wash Len Honeycutt	Tim Tribble Kent Ransom	Harry Shippy Bill Murray
E.M. (CHALICE)	8:00 AM 10:00 AM Janelle Fallan Sharon B-Polana	Chris Wash Debbi Honeycutt	Harry Shippy Debbie Popp	Janelle Fallan Muriel Murray
COFFEE HOUR	8:00 AM 10:00 AM Janelle Fallan Ken Dunham Zoe Mitchell La Benesh	Jim & Chris Wash Betty Chapman Debbi Honeycutt	Volunteer needed Debbie Popp Elsie Webber	Randy Grimwood Randy Grimwood Potluck Sunday
COUNTERS	Kent Ransom Stephen Soulman	Guido Polana Harry Shippy	Muriel Murray Sharon B-Polana	Kent Ransom Stephen Soulman
Media Ministry	10:00 Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed

NOTE: If you cannot serve on the day scheduled please arrange to have someone else take your place.

Note: The acolyte at the 10:00 service serves as one of the chalice bearers

July 4 Independence Day

Deuteronomy 10:17-21

Hebrews 11:8-16

Matthew 5:43-48

Psalm 145 or 145:1-9

July 7

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Track 1

or

Track 2

2 Kings 5:1-14

Psalm 30

Galatians 6:(1-6)7-16

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Isaiah 66:10-14

Psalm 66:1-8

Galatians 6:(1-6)7-16

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 14

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Track 1

or

Track 2

Amos 7:7-17

Psalm 82

Colossians 1:1-14

Luke 10:25-37

Deuteronomy 30:9-14

Psalm 25:1-9

Colossians 1:1-14

Luke 10:25-37

July 21

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Track 1

or

Track 2

Amos 8:1-12

Psalm 52

Colossians 1:15-28

Luke 10:38-42

Genesis 18:1-10a

Psalm 15

Colossians 1:15-28

Luke 10:38-42

Mary Magdalene

Judith 9:1,11-14

2 Corinthians 5:14-18

John 20:11-18

Psalm 42:1-7

July 25

St. James, Apostle

Jeremiah 45:1-5

Acts 11:27-12:3

Matthew 20:20-28

Psalm 7:1-10

July 28

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Track 1

or

Track 2

Amos 8:1-12

Psalm 52

Colossians 1:15-28

Luke 10:38-42

Genesis 18:1-10a

Psalm 15

Colossians 1:15-28

Luke 10:38-42

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Please email your news and photographs to anchor@saint-clements.com. Deadline for articles is the 15th of the month. Articles are subject to editing.

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Pastoral Needs

If you have a need for a pastoral visit, please contact: Fr. Kenn Katona at: 916-635-5282

Clergy and Lay Eucharist Visits

Please call the church office (635-5282) or send an e-mail to the church at info@saint-clements.com if you would like communion brought to you or a family member.

Harry Shippy, Editor

The Anchor

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