

SOUNDS

of

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April 18, 2010

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*O God, whose blessed Son did manifest himself to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open, we pray thee, the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen*

FROM THE RECTOR

Excerpted from the Easter Sermon of the Bishop of Durham, N. T. Wright

Rejection of the bodily resurrection has classically gone with rejection of God's kingdom as an earthly, concrete reality. Where Christians have tried to get to the latter result without the bodily resurrection as the foundation, they have usually floundered hopelessly – and I mean hopelessly. The last chapter of each gospel is then reduced to the status of a trivial 'happy ending', and worse, as though God got Jesus out of trouble even though he doesn't do it for anyone else. That is exactly wrong: the resurrection of Jesus means that what God has done for Jesus he is beginning to do, in and through Jesus, for the whole of the rest of the world. And that is what it means to say that God is now becoming king of the whole world in the new way of which Jesus had spoken. John's gospel, whose matchless twentieth chapter we heard a moment ago, is soaked in the idea of new creation, as Mary in the garden becomes for a moment Eve, weeping for her lost innocence and her lost Lord, and then discovering that the one she thinks is the gardener really *is* the gardener, the one through whose healing stewardship the whole creation will be dug afresh and planted with the Tree of Life. The resurrection of Jesus *is* the coming of the kingdom of God....

After all: if it is true that some people in some places have indeed lost confidence in the church that may in the last analysis be a good thing. Sometimes the church, our church as much as any, has encouraged people to have confidence in it rather than in the God who calls it into being, in the followers of Jesus rather than in Jesus himself, as though one could have faith in faith. Put not your trust in princes, nor indeed in prelates, nor in any hu-

man being or organisation. When Jesus said 'on this rock I will build my church', nobody before the Council of Trent (1545-1563) thought he was referring to Peter and his successors. Jesus himself is the rock. And we, his followers, need to learn to roll with the punches which come our way, so that we can humbly and cheerfully preach not ourselves but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for his sake.

Don't be blown off course. These catastrophes happen, partly because we deserve them but also, partly, because God's kingdom is going forward, and we are in a battle zone. That doesn't mean that the attacks on the church are undeserved, or that we are ourselves victims (the claiming of 'victim' status is another thing we should simply eschew; this is no way to conduct serious moral debate). Rather, it means that we should expect attacks, whether fair or foul; that when we are to blame we should put our hands up and say so – after all, whoever supposed we would never make mistakes? – that we should walk in the light with transparent responsibility, which (by the way) is not the same thing as ticking the thousand boxes required by yet another piece of nanny-state legislation; and that we should celebrate the new creation in which sins are brought to light in order to be dealt with, new starts are possible, healing is real and available, and God is becoming king in Stockton-on-Tees, in Durham, in, please God, Ireland, in the Anglican Communion, in the Middle East, in the whole world, and in and through our own hearts and lives. God has raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Let's get on with the party.

[The entire sermon is found at ntwrightpage.com.]

HOLLINS UNIVERSITY CONCERT CHOIR

SATURDAY, APRIL 17TH, 7:30 PM - ST. FRANCIS CHURCH

We are fortunate to be visited by this well known choir which performs both on and off the Hollins University campus. Their major performances include winter and spring concerts although the members also travel with the choir as it tours. Some of their recent trips have included Mexico, Costa Rica, Ireland, and Italy.

This week they will perform music by well-known composers such as Gounod, Saint-Saëns, Fauré, Gershwin, and Mendelssohn, as well as contemporary Latin American choral music and spirituals.

We are fortunate to welcome them here to St. Francis Church this Saturday. We hope you will join us for this concert and enjoy these wonderful young performers.

A SUCCESSFUL NEARLY NEW THRIFT SALE

Thank you to every one who participated in our successful thrift sale. Parishioners, friends and neighbors were generous with donations, volunteers worked long hours and our customers came from near and far.

Special thanks to the volunteers filling the boutique with laughter, organizing the children's shop with beautiful clothes and toys, cashiers who kept the checkout lines moving smoothly, everyone who folded and refolded clothing throughout the two days, the cooks who provided gourmet lunches and the wonderful clean-up crew which dismantled the sale in just one hour to meet the Lupus Foundation Charity truck. We could not have done this without your help, thank you again.

Beth Higgins and Mary Ashworth
Co-chairs

JOY AND CONCERN

We welcome into the household of God through the sacrament of Baptism Hannah Julia Woodward, daughter of John and Caroline Woodward.

Please pray for Janet Wilson who is ill.

BOOK CLUB

Come and join us Thursday, April 22 in the Youth Room at 7:30 pm as we discuss *The Help*, a novel by Kathryn Stockett.

The book's jacket says "in pitch-perfect voices, Kathryn Stockett creates three extraordinary women whose determination to start a movement of their own forever changes a town, and the way women - mothers, daughters, caregivers, friends - view one another. A deeply moving novel filled with poignancy, humor and hope. *The Help* is a timeless and universal story about the lines we abide by, and the ones we don't."

A THANK YOU

Thanks to event planner, Libby Linden Rubin, VP for Programs, Women of St. Francis, for coordinating our first annual Easter Egg Roll & Hunt, with the assistance of Karen Schneider, Anne Baker, Mary Ashworth, Carol Thedford, Skylar & Carson Rubin, and Carol Jarvis. Over 40 children participated in this eggsciting (sorry) event on a beautiful Easter Sunday.

LAST CALL FOR RESERVATIONS...

to the 3rd Annual St. Francis Parish Dinner and Golf Tournament. Call 301-365-2055 to reserve your spot. Dinner only is \$20 per person and Golf is \$75 per person, which includes dinner. Do come and join the fun!

COMING UP AT SAINT FRANCIS CHURCH

For more information, please visit our website at www.stfrancispotomac.org

SUNDAY, APRIL 18

8:00 am Holy Eucharist
9:00 am Morning Prayer
Sunday School and Adult Education Hour
11:15 am Holy Eucharist

TUESDAY, APRIL 20

5:30 pm St. Nicholas Training Choir
5:30 pm St. Clare Girl Choir
7:00 pm Centering Prayer—Undercroft
7:30 Vestry Meeting

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21

10:00 am Holy Eucharist
11:00 am Rector's Bible Study
5:30 pm Jr. High Bible Study

THURSDAY, APRIL 22

5:00 pm *Sounds* Deadline for 5/2/10
5:30 pm Sr. High Bible Study
7:30 pm St Francis Choir

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5:00 pm *Sounds* Deadline for 5/2/10
5:30 pm Sr. High Bible Study
7:30 pm St Francis Choir
7:30 pm Book Club—Youth Rm

FRIDAY, APRIL 23

7:00 am Men's Bible Study
1:00 pm Golf Tourney Kickoff @ Falls Rd Course
6:00 pm All Parish Dinner - St Francis Hall

SUNDAY, APRIL 25

8:00 am Holy Eucharist
9:00 am Holy Eucharist
Sunday School and Adult Education Hour
11:15 am Morning Prayer
5:15 pm Music at Eventide: Organ Recital by Mr. Gary Davison at the Washington National Cathedral

The Scripture appointed for the Third Sunday of Easter:
Acts 9:1-6, (7-20), Psalm 30, Revelation 5:11-14, John 21:1-19

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