

THE CALL

The Reverend Adam S. Linton, Rector

AUGUST 2007

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

2374 Grant Avenue, Ogden, Utah 84401

Rector's Reflections

"Reasons"

"There are always *reasons*, Shel."

This is one of many lines that I find memorable from the movie *The In-Laws*. I never bothered to see the recent remake, by the way. The 1979 original, starring Peter Falk as the highly eccentric CIA agent Vincent Ricardo and Alan Arkin as the conventionally-minded dentist Sheldon Kornpett, thrown together in unlikely adventures by the immanent marriage of their children, is one of my favorite film comedies. Sheldon, desperate to understand what is unfolding, pleads with Vincent for explanation, and Vince responds...

It's rather ironic in the movie, of course, but I like to quote the line, when assurance of purpose seems to be needed in a given situation.

There is significant interior reason to the church's historic liturgy; why we do what we do in our worship. More often than not, though, this reason is conveyed by participatory intuition rather than overt explanation. I think, too that intuition is often a more effective instrument than explanation. I've nothing against explanations (they're often necessary – and I'm about to offer one right here), but the limitation of explanations is that they usually only help with an immediate question. On the other hand, the development of the ability to apprehend the interior "reason" – what's going on in worship – observationally, engaging our intuition and imagination; that can unlock the key to the whole.

This is why informed mindfulness is so necessary in things liturgical. Good liturgy does not operate at cross-purposes with itself. In good liturgy, practice (what is being done) is in line with purpose (the intention of the service or part of the service). It's not merely a question of individual tastes; likes and dislikes. With a worship tradition such as ours, the longer-range historical study is indispensable. Practice, after all, has its ups and downs; sometimes better, sometimes not so good. And sometimes, a historic practice

that may run counter to mere taste has something to teach us if we will give it a chance.

There are always (okay, maybe not always – but more often than we suspect) *reasons*.

One odd feature of the Church's historic Eucharist, for example, is how abruptly it ends. We have a long journey of gathering, Scripture readings, sermon, prayers, offertory, the Great Thanksgiving, the sharing of the Sacrament – and then, very quickly after that, it's over.

"Ite, missa est."

This is the ancient Western dismissal, in Latin, originally said pretty much right after Communion. The most accurate translation is, "Go; it is the sending-out!" The word *missa* here, related to our word, "mission," became, in time, the name of the whole service: the Mass. We could say, then that the Mass or Eucharist doesn't so much end as it proceeds (and proceeds quite directly) to our being sent out in service and mission.

Sadly, what happened is that folks got disconnected from that core purpose and just noticed the abruptness. So they started adding more and more stuff to the liturgy, after the Communion – to provide a more grand, leisurely finish to the event, and only got themselves even more disconnected from what was supposed to be going on.

The conclusion of the Eucharist is actually one of the areas receiving careful attention in the liturgical work of the last fifty years. Now, after Communion, the various extras have been removed, and what we see is a direct end to the service, once again perhaps somewhat abrupt in feel: in fairly quick order a procession back out into the world, and emptied sanctuary and choir, extinguished candles. And once again a brief, pointed Dismissal: "let us **go** forth in the name of Christ," "**Go** in peace to love and serve the Lord," "Let us **go** forth into the world..." Notice the operative word. Not that we're tearing out of church, just for the sake of hurrying. But, by the grace of God, we are a People with a mission.

"Ite, missa est."

So it's not for nothing that the first thing we do after the Deacon pronounces the words of departure from church is

engage in welcome and fellowship with one another. The Mass doesn't "end." It is carried out, in us and through us.

Adam Linton †

Conversation

Our Father, who art in heaven... I think I've mentioned before how the LORD's Prayer seems to be so familiar to us, that many people, passing through their last hours of this life, are still able to mouth the words that Christ Our Savior taught us to say. They're imbedded. They're deep. They're inside.

Morning and evening prayers, noonday vigils, healing services, Holy Eucharists, times of trial. This prayer comes...repeated over and over. *Thy kingdom come...* In the world we live in, God's kingdom seems light years away. *Give us this day, our daily bread...* So many people within walking distance of our church; and students I pass in the halls at school – hunger for food, yes, but also for something more.

What do we want our prayers to do?

We offer the *Prayers of the People* in our worship. We hear the reader name the names of those in celebration, those in death, those in need. We may even add our own list of names "aloud or in our hearts," as instructed. Do you ever silently add your own name? I add mine. I know I'm in need of prayers said on my behalf at all times.

Our nation bowed in prayer after September 11, 2001, and heard the names of each of those innocents who died so suddenly in New York, and Washington D.C., and Pennsylvania. I have wondered off and on, why a national prayer has not also been offered, name by name, for all who are our country's casualties in war – in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other regions since then. Their number is horribly greater than those sacrificed on 9/11. Counting the dead and the wounded, it's more than 27,000 of our forces. Maybe we fear that such a prayer, filled with hours of names, will not be received as PC. Will those listeners favoring U.S. involvement in the war interpret such a list as a protest? Will those opposed to the war interpret the list as support for the current administration? It hurts to be a people so divided.

But to say these names out loud in the presence of God and of God's people, is not a matter of being for or against the war. Like all community prayer; like hopefully, all quiet, closeted prayer, it is a matter of remembering that all of us are bound together in the body of Christ. If God keeps track of little sparrows that fall to earth, surely it is important for us to keep track of those who have fallen in battle. They died believing they died for us.

To pray is to have hope. It is to believe that the creator hears our petitions and that Christ intercedes for us. What a cacophony of sound those prayers must make. Said in a

thousand languages – from all lands. From bedrooms, meeting halls, funeral parlors, churches, mosques, synagogues, and yes, battlefields. Some prayers are said by rote – some prayers are cried out in desperation. Some prayers are offered with open heart, and open mind, and open soul. *Thy will be done...*

In God's name, what do we want our prayers to do?

Blessings

Claudia †

The Angels Need your Help

The Angels Pantry was established to assist individuals and families with a temporary need who have been referred by a member of the clergy. The non-perishable items in the pantry are donations from members of the congregation. Perishable items are purchased as needed with ECW funds. Pantry supplies are very low now, because of recent requests for assistance.

We need canned fruits and vegetables, coffee, peanut butter, and soups. We would appreciate donations of any of the above items that are unopened and have not reached their expiration date. Items that have passed their expiration date are discarded and items close to their expiration date are donated to St. Anne's Center.

We still have a good supply of tuna, jellies and jams, pasta, rice, pinto beans, pork and beans and chili beans.

Thank you for your continued support of this program. You may drop any donations at the church, or call Nancy Mikesell at 782-4381 or Sherrie Bangert at 475-7176.

Rector's Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday, 9:30am - 4:30pm

Friday is Fr. Adam's usual day off. Always feel free to contact him in the event of a hospitalization or a pastoral emergency at the office (392-8168) or at home (605-1883).

Parish Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 9:00 til Noon

Phone: 392-8168

Fax: 627-7026

Email: goodshepherd -ut@qwest.net

Website: www.goodshepherdogden.org

A Full Church in August?

Come One, Come All

**Sunday, August 19
9:30am**

We will celebrate Holy Eucharist with one COMBINED service. The choir will sing, the Acolytes will be there in numbers, the cameras will be rolling. Please help us fill the church for Eucharist, as Good Shepherd is included in Craig Wirth's Documentary on the History of the Church.

Shawl Knitting Ministry

The shawl knitting ministry will meet and knit on Wednesdays, August 8 and August 22 at 7:00pm. We will gather in the sitting room outside Fr. Adam's office. Bring your projects and join us.

ECW Luncheon set for August

Episcopal Church Women will hold a luncheon on August 4 at 11:30am at Good Shepherd. The luncheon will be a pot-luck, please bring a summer dish to share. ECW will provide the beverages and paper products. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board. Please sign up so that we know how many to plan for.

Our speaker will be Bill Fenimore, the owner of the Wild Bird Store in Layton. Mr. Fenimore is an avid bird watcher and is an expert on the subject. He regularly hosts bird walks in the wild areas around Ogden, teaching people how to enjoy the natural beauty that surrounds us. Bill will present a slide show about the birds of our area, where to view them

and how to attract them to your yard with feeders and plants so that you can enjoy them in your own surroundings.

Please plan to join us for a wonderful day of learning and fellowship.

We will also have a collection box for school supplies for the children that attend Middle Basic School in Zambia. When you see those great back to school sales, please pick up an item or two for our adopted school children.

The ECW holiday bazaar is also rapidly approaching. The bazaar will be held November 2 and 3. Search out those empty jelly jars and bring them to the luncheon! We will make them available to those wonderful cooks that sweeten our toast each year!

Missa Solemnis
by Ludwig van Beethoven
**Sunday, August 12
5:00 pm**

Fr. Adam will offer a special presentation on Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis*, focusing on the sections comprising the Credo and Sanctus of the Mass. We'll talk a bit about Beethoven's work, his engagement with the sacred texts, and – of course – listen to sections of this beautiful masterwork.

Confirmation Classes Begin

Monday, August 13 marks the beginning of a new course for those interested in Confirmation or Reaffirmation. The sessions will meet on most Second and Fourth Mondays, and there is still room to register, if you haven't already. Please contact Fr. Adam as SOON as possible, if you're interested.

The Youth Classes will be held from 5:00 to 6:10pm and the Adults will meet from 6:30 to 7:45pm.

August 13: Introduction and Overview

August 27: History, Early Christian

Study Groups in September

With the beginning of the program year next month, Fr. Adam will lead the study groups in discussions of Dostoevsky's *Notes from Underground* beginning on Tuesday, September 18 at 7:00pm. Look for further details in the September issue of the newsletter. Copies of the book

will be available for purchase in The Attic. Hope to see you there.

Adult Sunday School

Tuttle Hall, 9:30 to 10:15 am
September 9 through December 16

Leader: The Rev. Adam Linton

Eugene Peterson is a noted writer, poet, scholar, and Presbyterian pastor. For many years I have found him both congenial and challenging – particularly so, in fact. He often engages key spiritual issues through literature – and has a way of combining rootedness and freshness, the classic and the vivid, the enduring and the truly contemporary that I find remarkably helpful. He’s hard to categorize, but has a way of going and leading deeper, beyond our pervasive consumerism, into the heart of faith. His recent work, *Christ Plays in Ten Thousand Places* (the title taken from a poetic line of Gerard Manley Hopkins), begins a summing of his life’s work. Its subtitle *A Conversation in Spiritual Theology* gives an indication of his approach. This outstanding, profound volume will be the basis of our Adult Sunday School this fall. Reading the book itself, while encouraged, is not required for class participation. **Our first session, on Sunday, September 9,** will serve as an introduction, including viewing an interview with Peterson, at the 2007 Pt. Loma Writers Symposium, earlier this year. From there we will work through the book’s contents, with section summaries, our usual lively discussion, and some facilitated small group follow-up conversation.

For those wishing to do so, the volume will be available for purchase in our Attic Bookstore.

Welcome back to Choir!!

Choir rehearsals will begin **Wednesday, August 15** at 7:00pm and continue weekly thereafter. The first rehearsal is very important as we will be preparing for the filmed service on August 19. After the 19th, we won’t be singing again until September 9, so the extra rehearsals will be focusing on getting prepared for the coming year as well as learning (or reviewing) some basic singing skills. We’ll be learning new warm-ups, new breathing techniques, and even some new Christmas music! For those who are considering joining the choir for the first time, these few weeks of rehearsals will be an excellent opportunity to dust off your voice, get it in shape, and get to know the rest of the choir before we actually begin the program year. I’m very excited

to see all of you on the 15th and to continue together in our part of the music ministry at Good Shepherd.

Liz Harden
Choir Director

Acolyte Schedule – August

August 5

8:00 Bonnie Taylor
10:30 Server: Betsy Guyon
Crucifer: Sarah Guyon
Torches: Tiffany Arnett, Andrea Arnett

August 12

8:00 John Kunkel
10:30 Server: Mark Campbell
Crucifer: Hope Linton
Torches: Shayn Moss, Madeline Gale

August 19

8:00 David Seiter
10:30 Server: Isabel Robinson
Crucifer: Nolan Peters
Torches: Tiffany Arnett, Andrea Arnett

August 26

8:00 Brenda Ruffier
10:30 Server: Taryn Kelly
Crucifer: Melissa Fairchild
Torches: Shayn Moss, Madeline Gale

August Birthdays

2. Cecele Cox, Barbara McKechnie
3. Jim Pierce, Leslie Taylor
4. John Cox
6. Marion Lloyd
7. Daniel Wilde
10. Evelyn McCoy
11. Lucy Bevan
12. Cora Loomis, Richard Lowe
14. Kathy Stretch
18. Lila Small, Sylvia Doe
19. Victoria Skiver
22. Rhonda Gill
23. Rick Anderson, Jay Stretch
24. Betsy Bauter, Nancy Groshart

August Anniversaries

2. John & Jodi Patterson
4. David & Tricia Dirks
5. Ian & Liz Harden
12. Adam & Karyn Johnston
28. John & Cecele Cox, Bob & Jan Hall