



The Pebble

February 12, 2012

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Middle Time.

Between the exhilaration of Beginning
And the satisfaction of Concluding
Is the Middle Time
Of Enduring .. Changing .. Trying
Despairing.. Continuing .. Becoming.

Jesus Christ was the Person of God's Middle Time
Between Creation and .. accomplishment.
Through Him God said of Creation,
"Without mistake"
And of Accomplishment,
"Without doubt"

And we in our Middle Times
Of Wondering and Waiting,
Hurrying and Hesitating,
Regretting and Revising –
We who have begun many things ..
And seen but few completed –
We who are becoming more .. and less –
Through the evidence of God's Middle time
Have a stabilising hint
That we are not mistakes,
That we are Irreplaceable,
That our Being is of interest,
And our Doing is of purpose,
That our Being and our Doing
Are surrounded by Amen

Jesus Christ is the Completer
Of unfinished people
with unfinished work
in unfinished times.
May he keep us from sinking, from ceasing,
From wasting, from solidifying,
That we may be for Him
Experimenters, Enablers, Encouragers, And Associates
in Accomplishment

Lorna Fowler.

A Warm Welcome

to all who are sharing with us in worship this morning. The Ministry of Healing and Wholeness is offered in the Chapel of Our Lady at the back of the Church during Communion. Everyone is warmly invited to Morning Tea and the Potluck Luncheon in the Parish Lounge after the Solemn Eucharist.

The Liturgy for Today:

8:00 am Holy Eucharist (1662 Book of Common Prayer)

10:30 am Solemn Eucharist (The Taize Mass setting)

HYMNS:

433 O worship the King

369 Happy are they that love God.

339 Be thou my vision

285 For the beauty of the earth.

235 Forth in thy name O Lord I go

READINGS:

Leviticus 13: 1-2, 44-46.

1 Corinthians 10: 31-11:1.

Mark 1:40-45.

Organ Prelude: *Folk Tune* Percy Whitlock

Organ Postlude: *Chorale* Marcel Dupre

Parish Notices

New format This is the new format for the Pebble from now on. The new lay out is intended to give more space for news, together with an opportunity for poems or theological material on the front cover which, if possible, will support or further explicate the sermon topic of the day.

Sunday lections From now on the Sunday Scripture readings will be listed on page 2 for your further study at home, but will not be published in the Pebble. The liturgical movement revived the importance of Scripture in the liturgy, and emphasised the priority of a congregation's alert collective listening to the Sunday readings in which a new depth of meaning emerges from the combined attentiveness to the Word of God. Giving the Scripture readings out was discouraged as this invites the congregation to withdraw into a private reading experience in which they are less likely to experience Christ as the living Word present in his body gathered together for worship. There will be a fuller explanation of this change in this morning's parish forum.

Parish Forum A parish forum will follow today's 10.30 Service at which Fr Hugh will talk about some of the ways in which he intends to approach ministry at St Peters. A synopsis of the main points will

appear in next month's Rock for those not at the forum. **The Pot Luck luncheon will follow the forum.**

St Peter's Friendship Group: The first meeting for 2012: Tuesday, February 14, 2pm, in the Parish lounge. Mother Keleni from the Community of the Holy Name will be our guest. The Sisters are now resident in Ashburton, relocating from Christchurch after the earthquakes. She will have cards available for sale. These were retrieved from the House after the quake. All welcome.

American budget woes The Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance of the American Episcopal Church has drawn up a draft budget ahead of the General Convention in 2012 (their equivalent of General Synod) which proposes to cut both programmes and staff from a number of their extra national ministries, together with further reductions at their national headquarters building in New York. A further unpopular measure is the requirement for the dioceses to pay more into the national budget despite a request at the last General Convention that the diocesan share comes down. These budget constraints are in part a reflection of their steady membership decline since the 1970's, but more particularly stem from the internal haemorrhaging of parishes and dioceses as a result of recent controversial changes in the life of the Episcopal Church. Not only have the departing Episcopalians taken their financial contributions with them, but also in many cases expensive litigation has followed as the Episcopal Church has fought through the courts to prevent any exiting parish retaining its plant and property. Not all of the conservatives have gone. At the last General Convention a new grouping emerged - the Anglican Communion Partner movement, which vowed to stay on as a loyal opposition fighting the potentially Communion breaking controversial measures taken at that meeting, but giving their primary loyalty to the Anglican Communion as a whole rather than the national church and its Presiding Bishop. This movement is spearheaded by Bishop Mark Lawrence of the diocese of South Carolina, with the diocese of Central Florida also in strong support. Last year part of the rump core of national church loyalists within the diocese of South Carolina tried to get Bishop Mark Lawrence impeached by the House of Bishops, alleging that he had struck a compromise deal with a departing parish allowing them to keep some of their property, and that he had encouraged the disloyal undermining of the Episcopal Church's polity. The Bishop's committee who investigated the charges decided to step back from such an inflammatory disciplinary measure, but Bishop Mark Lawrence is not out of the woods yet as a recently passed piece of legislation gives greater power to the national executive and the Presiding Bishop to call to order local parts of the Episcopal Church. This is in itself a major departure from the rather decentralised polity of the Episcopal Church as it emerged after the war of independence. So far publicity and conflict has

centred on issues to do with human sexuality, but a more fundamental possible change may well be coming up in the lift at the next General Convention. Progressives want a major revision of the Episcopal Prayer Book to eliminate all Trinitarian language, on the grounds that it is patriarchal and oppressive. Such a change would call into question whether the Episcopal Church was still an orthodox or indeed a Christian Church, and would be highly likely to provoke the kind of outside intervention that they have so far kept at bay. It would also bring in to high relief the Meta issue that lies behind pretty much all the contestation issues in the Anglican Communion at present - the way in which a national church loses its way when it becomes lost in the local, and the erosion of authenticity when a Church ceases to be true to itself and loses its soul. The Anglican Communion will now either chose to be a mutually accountable and interdependent world wide Church (i.e. a Catholic church), or it will spiral down into a loose association of increasingly diverse national churches who only come together for essentially limited and pragmatic purposes.

We pray for the sick and infirm: Rita Marlow, Louis Hourlier, Nell van Laar, Adrienne Garrod, Claire Johnson, John Petersen, Hannah Scott, Beryl Barclay, Lil Bedford, Meg Dunbar, Cherry Gordon, Ben Chisnall and Denise Walker.

We pray for the Departed: Robina Wadham, Leonard Base, Frederick Garrod, Roy Tokona, Margaret Carruthers, Ellen Allen, Rita Stedman, Merle Forrest, Daniel Gillies and Mary Robbins.

Wardens Meeting The Vicar will meet with the Wardens on Monday evening. Please mention to Joy or Tubby any matters you would like raised at that meeting.

The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated in the Chapel of Our Lady on Thursday at 10am.

Observances: (22) CONFESSION OF ST PETER.

Vicar's day off The Vicar's day off will be Friday from now on.

Palm crosses Please can you locate and hand to the Vicar your Palm cross of last year so that this can be burnt up and used for the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday. Lent starts early this year on 22 February.

Parish Contact Details:

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