

August 18-19, 2018

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Proverbs 9:1-6

Ephesians 5:15-20

John 5:51-58

The scythe of our never-ending California fire season has reaped an early harvest of both homes and lives. For the communities, individuals and families impacted, they are challenged to be overwhelmed by loss or to gather their resolve, bury their dead, rebuild and live their lives. It is this ability to look beyond temporal losses and hope for the future that is at the core of this week's Eucharistic reflection from Proverbs and the Gospel of John. Beginning with the Prophets of old and realized in the fullness of the Incarnation of Jesus as one with us, the purpose of Eucharist is to strengthen us to see BEYOND the immediate and to live for the eternity for which we have been created. The four-fold fullness of the Eucharistic celebration is offered as FOOD for ALL our senses, to be fed by what we see, what we hear, what we taste, what we touch and what we smell. Beginning with the initial inner prompting/urging to gather for the familial meal, the sharing of our sacred stories, the breaking of bread and sharing of the cup, concluded with the sending of us out into our everyday lives empowered to see BEYOND the immediate, we draw strength from our Eucharistic reality of there being MORE to life than our senses can perceive. Using images drawn from the Exodus stories of the people being FED by God, the evangelist John renews the words spoken by Jesus, that HE is the true bread by which we will survive unto eternity, the LIVING BREAD by which we will have fullness of life. It is this FULLNESS of life that gives strength to those who have lost everything, the ability for the afflicted to rise above tremendous grief, to prompting to see grace within everyday insanity, to trust and believe that no matter how dark the hour, there is light somewhere....if only we keep looking. Thus, as Proverbs urges: 'Come, eat of my food and drink of the wine I have mixed...forsake foolishness that you may live.'

Midway through August ALREADY...thank you for coming to share worship and Eucharist with our Santa Clara community. With less than a month before our SECOND and LAST La Cena of the Summer (September 15th) please make your reservations promptly. Keep in mind that all our La Cena tables will be set up and available for you and your decorating expertise in the early morning of the 15th...so feel free to create your own look or bring your own 'extras' by which to make the meal more festive. Please take a copy of the Bulletin home with you for news of upcoming dates and events and please remember, even as Labor Day draws near, you are loved. FKB