



CCA TODAY

sharing the news of
Christ Church Anglican

March 2009

From the Rector's Desk

Its Lent in the Church once more, and, as always on Ash Wednesday, St Paul tells us:

Now is the time to be 'ambassadors for Christ'
Now is the time to 'accept the grace of God'
'now is the acceptable time . .
now is the day of salvation'

But, St. Matthew warns us:
'beware of practicing your piety before others
in order to be seen by them . . . when you give alms
do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing
so that your alms maybe done in secret . . '

Its Lent in the Church once more, so we move again
into our season of intentional change.

Our season of sacrifice.
Of giving up.
Of letting go.

We hope to purge ourselves of the nonsense
than gets between us and our Lord
that robs us of the opportunity to be
an 'ambassador for Christ' now

Things are so different this year.
Wherever we look, it's about the economy.
The gloom, the doom; the gloom of this year . . .

Has our spiritual life been co-opted by the economy?

Can we freely give up, or let go, when we hear
again and again that all may be yanked from our hands,
or emptied from our pockets, any day now???

Do we sacrifice, give alms to the poor, let go of anything
when our future is so less-secure, so much more insecure??
Now hardly feels like a time of opportunity . . .

What spirit, then will we invite into our days this year
to restore our sense of Lent?
Can the ancient and ordinary practices of Lent
draw us from self pre-occupation
and focus our attention
on others?

Paraphrased from: St. Elizabeth 2009 Lenten Reflection Series

Office Address:
672 Townsend Avenue, New Haven, CT 06512

phone: (203) 468-8734
email: christanglican@sbcgloabal.net
web: www.ctcca.com

We meet at:
DC Moore Elementary School
82 Elliot Street, East Haven, CT 06512

Services:
Sunday — 8:00 am & 10:00 am
9:00 am Sunday School & Adult Christian Education

Rector
Reverend Gilbert Wilkes
Assistant Rector
Reverend Moses Aderibole

Email newsletter info/comments to:
john.guida13@gmail.com

BIBLE STUDY

A Lenten Bible Study will be held each Wednesday during Lent; the sessions will take place at 672 Townsend Avenue at 7:00 pm. The first will be on March 4th.

The study will concentrate on the Gospel of Mark with cross reverences to the other three Gospels.

If you plan to attend, please contact Father Gil beforehand.



BLESSED ARRIVAL

CCA is pleased to announce the arrival of **Simeon Grey Bos**. Proud parents Cynthia and Adrian Bos welcomed their son into the world at 7:16 pm on February 16th. He weighed in at 10 lbs, 2 oz and 21 inches long. Both Mom and baby are doing well. Cynthia and Adrian thank you for your thoughts and prayers at this joyous time.

God's Work in Progress

LOOKING TOWARD OLIVET (PART 4) *by Ed Wood*

Matthew 24:6-7a And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars; see that ye not be troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom . . .

(See also Mark 13:7-8a; Luke 21:9-10)

Ever since Cain slew his brother Abel in a fit of jealousy after Adam and Eve's rebellion in the Garden of Eden, conflict has been humanity's constant companion. From that first instance of fratricide, we see the unending strife continued and magnified across the ages. The Twentieth Century was unparalleled in both the numbers of those lost to war and the advance of the technology, which allowed such appalling casualties in the first place.

As Jesus spoke the words above to his disciples, I can imagine him not only looking out over the landscape of old Judea, but across the vistas of space and time to every war in every place which was to come, no doubt deeply saddened by the inevitability of them all.

I believe the Bible clearly points to the Middle East, and Jerusalem in particular, as becoming the focal point of the world's major conflicts in the days ahead, just as the prophet Zechariah revealed some 2500 years ago:

Zechariah 12:2-3 Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about,

when they shall make siege both against Judah and Jerusalem, And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all the people: all that burden themselves with it shall but cut in pieces, though all the people of earth be gathered against it.

This being said, I do not believe any lasting peace treaty will be achieved for this region despite all our world leader's best efforts.

Yet Jesus tells his friends to "ne not troubled" concerning all the conflicts to come. How can we reconcile this seeming paradox? Perhaps the answer is in something he said shortly before his arrest:

John 16:33b In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

When Jesus arose from death that Sunday morning from Joseph of Arimathea's tomb, everything changed. He proved that there was something beyond this life, beyond this world - a reality far greater than anything we could have possibly imagined. Maybe this is why he told us not to be overly troubled - because in the most hopeless situation, Jesus himself is the answer - one that not even death can overcome!

Next month we will look at the disturbances in nature itself which, along with the wars and reports of wars mentioned above, would signal the beginning of the close of this age.

A CHALLENGE AND A PROMISE *by Kate Heermans*

God's ways differ from our ways (Isaiah 55:9). Today our land is suffering because of the actions of a few - a small group of people committed to themselves. Our Father knows the power of a small group of people committed to Him. They changed the world.

This is what our Father does. The Holy Spirit empowers us and then our Father asks us for our cooperation to bring about His promises. In 2 Chronicles 7:14 He challenges us...

If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn

from their wicked ways then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and will heal their land.

We Christians are called by His name and we have His Son Jesus who demonstrated by His life one who humbled himself and prayed and sought His face and turned from the wicked temptations of Satan (Matthew 4 :1-11).

We are called to live our lives as Jesus did and to believe that our Father will then keep His promises. Let's see how Jesus lived His life.

To be continued....