

2018 Rector's Musing for Thanksgiving

I am writing this my Musing for Thanksgiving this year when my thoughts go to a scriptural reading we did earlier today during Bible Study time this morning, with St. Paul saying: 'for the love of Christ urges us on . . . (as) ambassadors for Christ . . . for [God] made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.' (2 Cor. 5) What better cause for thanksgiving than this, though we often find such etiological statement abstract.

Yet, God grants me a glimpse of how such theological statement get grounded when, in that afternoon, Julia (a 6-year old girl) who loves coming to church after school during week-days showed up (after her showing up for many, many times since age 3), sat at the children's table in church and started reading aloud the book she chose: 'Would you like to know Jesus?' Then we sang together 'Jesus loves all children'. I can't believe it: her parents are atheists. I said a prayer of thanksgiving for God's letting St. Chad's pass on God's love as Christ's ambassador: Julia must have a special soft spot in God's heart for this to happen!

I am all the more writing this Musing ahead of time, as I had been diagnosed with a significant health condition and I was in the course of waiting for more details to unfold out of the 'unknown' and 'uncertainties'. Nevertheless, as St. Paul said: 'the love of Christ urges us on' – and so I am still writing on this special theme of 'Thanksgiving', giving thanks for God's call for me, for opportunity to serve in love and faith, for knowing you all, and for the Spirit's empowerment to 'walk by faith, not by sight' (2 Cor. 5).



Thanks and glory and honor be to God, Now and Forever! Amen.

Paula Lee

2018 感恩節牧者隨筆

當我執筆寫這牧者隨筆之時，在我心中浮現的是今天在教會的教友查經時讀到（林後 5 章）的一段經文。在那裏，聖保羅寫道：「。。。基督的愛激勵我們。。。作基督的使者。。。上帝使那無罪的，替我們成為罪，好叫我們在祂裏面成為上帝的義。」這可正是最值得我們感恩的事，儘管我們有時難免感到這經文有點抽象。

然而，就在今天的下午讓我碰到這「抽象」的經文如何可以落實於主無比的愛可以奇妙的使我們作基督的使者，而傳至未認識主愛的人。Julia 是個六歲的女孩，父母都非信徒，但 Julia 卻自從三歲開始就挺喜歡蹦蹦跳跳的進入教堂，好奇地看東看西。那天下午，Julia 又來了，坐在她喜歡的小桌旁，隨手挑了一本名為「你想認識耶穌嗎」的兒童圖書，就開始一口氣的高聲唸出來，直到唸完為止。我簡直是難以置信。那我就忙不迭的把握著機會，讓她跟著我一起唱一首名為「耶穌喜愛小孩」的兒童歌。我倆都樂在其中。她離開後我就馬上獻上了感恩的禱告，感謝上帝竟讓我們和教會能成為基督的使者，把主愛跟這清心的小女孩分享。

事實上，在我這提早執筆之時，面對著的是許多生命裏的「未知數」，但如聖保羅所說：「基督的愛激勵我們」，因此我樂於憑感恩的心往前走：感謝上主的呼召，感謝祂給我機會以信和愛作事奉，更感謝聖靈助我往前走，是「憑著信心，不是憑著眼見」（林後 5 章）！

願感謝、讚美和榮耀全歸上主。啊們。

李志敏

