



Go, Invite People to Christ!

Trinity Sunday

Matt 28:16–20

*Then Jesus came to them and said,
All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the
Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.
And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

June 11, 2017

Thought for the Week

Scripture: Genesis 3:22-24, Exodus 26:31-37; Leviticus 16, Isaiah 59:2, Matthew 27:51, Ephesians 2:6 & 18, Ephesians 3:12, Romans 5:2, Colossians 1:12, Colossians 3:3, Hebrews 4:16, Hebrews 10:19-22,

ACCESS INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

In several places in the New Testament we read that in Christ the believer has access into the presence of God.

This amazing truth is often overlooked. We find ourselves and other believers living, acting and thinking as though it was not true, as though our sin still has the power and authority to separate us from God and bar us from his presence.

That sin does separate us from God is quite evident from the scriptures:

In Genesis 3:24 God barred the way to the 'tree of life', placing cherubim at the east side of the Garden of Eden. Having sinned, having rejected God, we were no longer permitted to live with God. [Read Genesis 3:22-24.]

In the tabernacle, then later in the temple, no one was permitted to enter the Most Holy Place, except the High Priest once a year, and then only after strict ritual requirements had been met. This Most Holy Place represented the presence of God. It was divided off from the rest of the tabernacle by a curtain on which were embroidered golden cherubim. It acted as a barrier barring access to the symbolic presence of God. [Read Exodus 26:31-37; Leviticus 16.]

In Isaiah 59:2 the idol-worshipping & God-rejecting Israelites of that era were told: 'your iniquities have separated you from God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear'.

Sin separates us from God. Sin disqualifies us from standing in his presence. That is a clear biblical fact.

But there is another, equally clear, fact: that Jesus Christ came and died to deal with sin. That Jesus Christ came and died precisely to remove the sin-barrier that stands between God and us. This is, as we have already seen, the deep meaning of forgiveness. Jesus removed the power of sin, taking it out of the way; it no longer stands between God and us. At the moment of his death that symbolic, prohibitive curtain in the temple was ripped away [Matthew 27:51].

Thus the scripture teaches us this amazing truth about the permanent, unimpeded relationship we have with God:

'God has raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus' [Ephesians 2:6].

'Through him we ... have access to the Father by one Spirit' [Ephesians 2:18].

Through Jesus Christ 'we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand' [Romans 5:2].

God the Father 'has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light' [Colossians 1:12].

'Your life is now hidden with Christ in God' [Colossians 3:3].

Because of Jesus Christ, our great High Priest, we should 'approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need' [Hebrews 4:16].

'We have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus ... with full assurance of faith' [Hebrews 10:19-22].

Paul sums it up in Ephesians 3:12:

'In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence'.

The sin barrier is gone, removed forever by the blood of Jesus Christ. Those who have received Jesus Christ have, in him, received also this amazing, incredible gift: that we have, right now, permanent, present access into the presence of the living and holy God. He does not turn us away. He will not turn us away. He cannot turn us away because his dearly loved Son fulfilled the commission he gave him, and purchased for us this right of entry.

If we were to look to our own merits we would indeed still be disqualified and banned from God's presence. Our sin would see to that. But we do not look to our own merits, we look to Christ alone. We do not trust in ourselves. We trust in Christ alone. We believe ... not in ourselves ... we believe in Christ.

In Christ, and in Christ alone, we have this assurance, this confidence, and this boldness, that we have permanent, present access into the very presence of God.

Let us, sinners though we are, embrace and rejoice in this amazing grace.

Happy Birthday – Anita (6/11)

Invite People to Christ

We are called to share our witness of Jesus Christ, with those waiting to hear the redeeming words of the gospel.

Community of Christ is uniquely poised to find renewal. Our path in response to God's call has given us a rich inheritance of ideas, tools, and capacities that other Christian-tradition churches lack. The things that matter most to us appeal to many non-adherents. By reaching out, we can bring church to the unchurched.

Are You Seeking A Spiritual Home?

We offer a community where you can belong, be valued and loved, deepen your spirituality, and discover a purpose that can change lives and communities.

Community of Christ is the welcoming, loving faith community that values the worth of every person as a child of God. We provide a safe space for you to explore and deepen your relationship with Jesus Christ and each other. Come discover renewed purpose for your life through compassionate, Christ-like service that ends suffering and fosters justice and peace.

Community of Christ will help you grow spiritually, discover your purpose, and equip you to be part of Christ's mission of compassion, justice, and peace.

Change your life; change your community; change the world!

Many of our congregations have had wonderful success with "Coffee, Coloring, & Conversation" meet-ups, where people gather to discuss meaningful life issues. The key is to have Missional, community-building opportunities that are invitational—activities you like and feel comfortable inviting others to join.

In Community of Christ we have something extraordinary and wonderful. Let's invite everyone to share it with us!

*Lord Jesus,
I Open my Heart,
I Invite You Inside
To Be my Friend,
To Be my Savior,
And to Be my God.*

*Forgive me of my Sin.
Wash me Clean.
From This Day Forward
I Want to Follow You,
All the days of my life.*

*I Believe in You,
And I Put my Trust in You.
Amen*

Here's a great Idea—

Invite your friends to church This Summer!

Here's 4 REASONS why you should bother to pray, ask and remind people to come when you'd rather just relax and sit around watching TV.

Reason No. 1 -- Life is scary

The economy, war, terrorism, ill health – there is a lot to be afraid of, in our world today. But those who have met the One who calms storms, know that though the journey might be challenging, we are ultimately promised a safe harbor. Invite your friends to meet Jesus, the only reliable guide through scary times.

Reason No. 2 -- People are lonely

Lies, abandonment, abuse, disappointment – no matter how wonderful the person or relationship, there are times when the best of human companionship will disappoint.

That's because we all have a God-shaped place inside that only Jesus can fill. Invite your friends to meet Jesus, the only person whose love will never fail through all of life, death and into eternity

Reason No. 3 – Everyone needs a purpose

One of the former Watergate conspirators stated, "Many folks live their lives climbing the Ladder of Success, only to realize it was leaning against the wrong wall." Jesus resurrection provides us with the power to live lives of significant purpose and to discern



between true and false success. Invite your friends to discover Jesus, the only compass to guide you to a life of genuine, meaningful purpose.

Reason No. 4 – We're all going to live forever

Most folks today believe that and the Bible agrees. The question is, if you are going to live forever, what neighborhood will you live in? Jesus promises that for those who believe in Him, they will live in an eternal neighborhood of light, joy, purpose and companionship with loved ones.

But Jesus won't force anyone to live in His neighborhood. Problem is, any place outside His source of light, joy, purpose and companionship is an eternal place of darkness, pain, regret and isolation – not a neighborhood we want anyone to live in. Invite your friends to meet Jesus, so they can live forever in the neighborhood of joy.

Invite your friends to church this Summer!