



Evangelist Pentecost 2021

The “lively” presence of the Holy Spirit

Have you ever noticed that the Nicene Creed is composed as a plural witness? We say it, and presumably mean it, together. Now, on any given day you, as an individual parishioner, might scratch your head and wonder just what it is you are claiming to believe, but Christians have been declaring the foundational Nicene precepts, in many languages, for some sixteen hundred years. Must be something to it. It is arranged in three paragraphs, one about our belief in God the creative Parent, another about the mission, ministry, and divinity of Jesus, and a third about the Holy Spirit. That last section begins: “We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life...”. “How, why, and when does the Spirit give life?”, you might ask.

It might be helpful to know that in Biblical times the presence of some sort of ‘spirit’ was thought to be responsible for consciousness in a human body. Could be a good spirit, or a bad one. When one died, the spirit which had inhabited that body departed. In the famous words of the King James Bible translation, the person who was attaining room temperature “gave up the ghost”. Where that spirit went to following death was (and still is, I suppose) a question of conjecture. In any case, though, life was over.

But in the Christian perspective, life, though it may be changed, continues. When the Creed calls the Holy Spirit the ‘giver of life’, it refers to the gift of everlasting life. This kind of Spirit, one which comes intentionally from God, supports life forever. In other words, we are already in eternal life, and the Spirit intends to keep us there. This should, by the way, give us some reason to place a high value on our own lives, and on life in general. Life is an eternal gift, which is delivered to us by the Spirit “who proceeds from the Father and the Son”. So declares the Creed, and if you feel it to be true in your heart, then you can witness to believing it.

How does this spiritual life-support system work? Well, it may seem complicated. Of course, divinity will always remain mysterious, and the various doctrines religious leaders have invented, sometimes layer-upon-layer, have often led the faithful down some curious rabbit holes. But the Spirit, Biblically known as ruach in the Hebrew Scriptures and pneuma in the later Greek ones, seems to be a multi-purpose gift which often has defied doctrinal description. It influences all manner of human life. Including eternal life. The Creed tells us that it “has spoken through the Prophets”, for example, suggesting that it finds ways to communicate God’s truth. Being receptive to the Holy Spirit permits us to discern eternal truths in mind and heart, leading to “believing”, or finding them to be beloved.

Recognizing the truth about God’s presence and being able to live daily and fruitfully with the mysterious questions about divinity are two of the primary benefits we notice from the Spirit. It helps us breathe with God’s rhythm and to walk with Jesus’ stride. The Holy Spirit was our first birthday present, a sacred gift by which we discover, as we unwrap it, that life is not a burden but an opportunity. It dwells within each of us, abides with us, sustains us, and encourages us, and seeks out relationships with all others, who have received the same gift. With everyone. May this wonderful, mysterious, divine gift give you cause to celebrate your life during this season of Pentecost and to the end of time!

Fr. Nick

FOOD PANTRY

Please continue to not bring items to the church but instead make a cash donation to these organizations below:

Karing Kitchen
116 W. Grove St.
Oneida, N.Y. 13421

Church on the Rock
164 Madison St.
Oneida, N.Y. 13421

Food Bank of CNY
7066 Interstate Island Rd
Syracuse, N.Y. 13209

I would also like people to consider donating to the CNYSPCA for the animals in need as well. Unopened packages of pet food and litter are appreciated or contact them at FrontDesk1@cnyspca.org to find out what they need the most.

CNYSPCA
5878 East Molloy Rd
Syracuse, N.Y. 13211

Too Blessed To Be Stressed

Our ongoing [ZOOM](#) activities at St. John's:

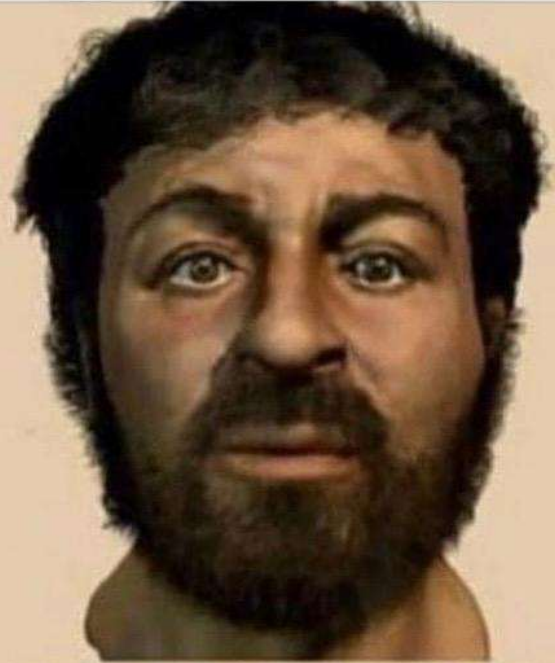
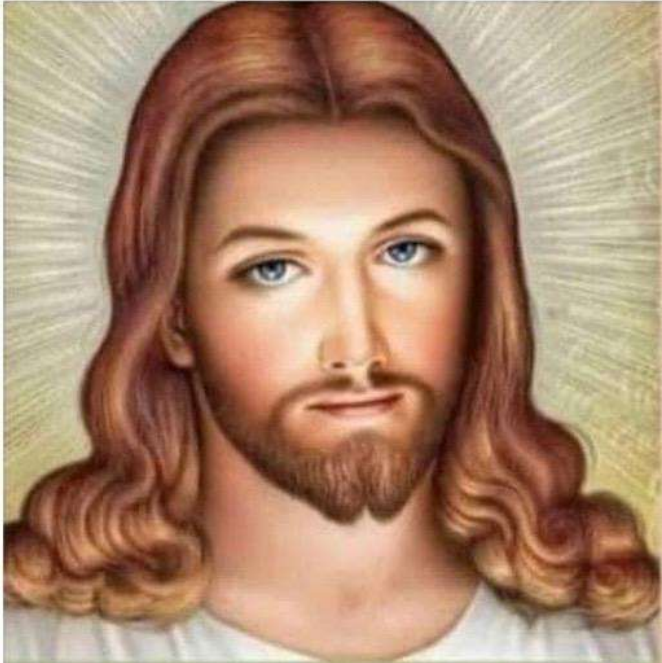
[Wednesdays](#): Hug A Mug Coffee Hour 930 a.m. to 1030 a.m.

[Thursdays](#): Bible Study @ 7p.m.

[Sundays](#): Church Service on Facebook Live @ 930 a.m. Please Join Us !

For [Hug A Mug](#), [Bible Study](#), as well as [Sunday services](#), please watch your emails for the correct links (or email Father Nick and ask)

JESUS



COLONIZER JESUS vs *HISTORICAL JESUS*

- WHITE
- CHRISTIAN
- PATRIOTIC
- JUSTICE THROUGH RETRIBUTION
- DIED FOR YOUR SINS
- SENDS SINNERS TO HELL
- SILENT IN THE FACE OF OPPRESSION
- CONDEMNS SINNERS
- ENDORSES CHURCH AND STATE
- A KING
- UPHOLDS TRADITIONAL FAMILY UNIT
- ENDORSES HOLY WAR

- MIDDLE-EASTERN BROWN SKINNED
- JEWISH
- COLONIZED BY ROME
- JUSTICE THROUGH RESTORATION
- KILLED BY CHURCH AND STATE
- FRIEND OF SINNERS & OUTCASTS
- LIBERATES THE OPPRESSED
- CRITIQUES RELIGIOUS PEOPLE
- SUBVERTS EMPIRE
- HOMELESS MAN & CHILD REFUGEE
- HAD HALF SIBLINGS
- NON-VIOLENT

hey, listen to your emotions...

Bitterness shows you where you need to heal, where you're still holding judgments on others and yourself.

Resentment shows you where you're living in the past and not allowing the present to be as it is.

Discomfort shows you that you need to pay attention right now to what is happening, because you're being given the opportunity to change, to do something different than you typically do it.

Anger shows you what you're passionate about, where your boundaries are, and what you believe needs to change about the world.

Disappointment shows you that you tried for something, that you did not give in to apathy, that you still care.

Guilt shows you that you're still living life in other people's expectations of what you should do.

Shame shows you that you're internalizing other people's beliefs about who you should be (or who you are) and that you need to reconnect with yourself.

Anxiety shows you that you need to wake up, right now, and that you need to be present, that you're stuck in the past and living in fear of the future.

Sadness shows you the depth of your feeling, the depth of your care for others and this world.

Creation

Take a walk outdoors to personally visit and encounter neighboring nature. Notice the sounds, smells, colors. Stop when a particular place attracts you and pay closer attention to it. First notice what happens to your sense of self and your sense of God when viewing creation as an object. Then notice what happens when viewing creation personally, as an equal, possessing its own life and energy.

-Br. Luke Ditewig
Society of Saint John the Evangelist

Song of the Builders

On a summer morning
I sat down
on a hillside
to think about God –

a worthy pastime.
Near me, I saw
a single cricket;
it was moving the grains of the hillside

this way and that way.
How great was its energy,
how humble its effort.
Let us hope

it will always be like this,
each of us going on
in our inexplicable ways
building the universe.

–Mary Oliver

Update on the Campanie Grandchildren

Jonathan has graduated from Oneonta and received a medal for Bachelor of Science

Thomas has just finished his first year at Keuka

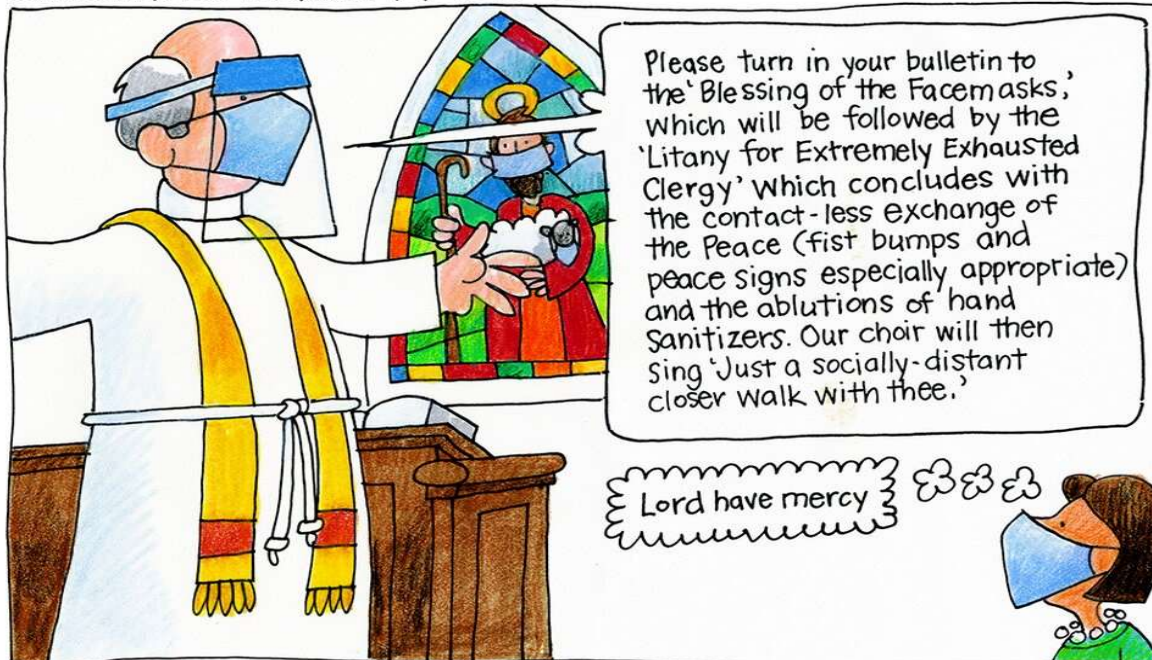
Cara has 1 more year in high school and is being entered into the High Honor Society in May

Well Done to each of Tom & Gisela's grandchildren

Congratulations!

Episcopal Humor

SUPPLEMENTAL LITURGIES FOR COVID-TIDE



St. John's Episcopal Church
341 Main St.
Oneida N.Y. 13421
Phone: (315) 363 -1940

Bishop: The Rt. Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan Probe

Rector: The Very Rev. Arthur W. Smith

Parish Administrator: John Reinhardt

Treasurer: Jack MacMullen

Clerk of the Vestry: Valerie Hill

Senior Warden: Leslie Zebrowski

Junior Warden: Peter Slaunwhite

Vestry:

Sandra Aylesworth

Sheila Aylesworth

Suzanne Bauer

Cathy English

Valerie Hill

Garry Hirst

Ann Hodgins

Shelly Sears

Bob Wilkins

Loving God, by your grace you have gathered us from many walks of life to become a loving family at St. John's. Help us to sustain the miraculous love within this parish, and guide us in sharing this love with our neighbors. All this we ask through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Amen.

Please submit Evangelist articles to Laura Weismore @ snowkittens7311@gmail.com

Thank you to Gale and Gisela for the submissions 😊