

John he is more specific: "Receive the Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven." As for Jesus in Mark, so for the disciples in John: those who bear the Spirit bear the authority of God on earth to forgive sins. To be the people of God is to carry about the name of God and Christ upon the earth. It is thus to be charged to so live upon the earth that people who see us see not us but the God who is at work in and through us. To be the people of God is to be written into a story that we must then write out in how we act upon the earth, always living as agents of the authority bestowed on us by God's empowering Spirit.

If ours is a story of grace, we the human agents must be extensions of that grace. If ours is a story of forgiveness, we must pronounce forgiveness knowing that the pronouncement makes it so. "Your sins are forgiven." This is not a reference to a celestial reality that we hope someone will apprehend with their heart and mind. It is a reality that we bring into existence by speaking the words in the context of faith as possessed by God's authority-granting Spirit.

The Human One had authority on earth to forgive sins. And so do the human ones whom he has brought into the new creation he inaugurates. We are the forgiveness people. And so we, no less than Jesus, are the human agents of God's grace."

In 2nd Corinthians, Paul writes, "God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us." Christ's ambassadors, human agents, living vessels of God's grace and love.

Warmly, Tony+

BLUEBERRIES AND CREPE MYRTLES

St. Mark's Palatka is extending an invitation to you to join them on July 15, 2017 from 8 til 2 for their annual sale of assorted Crepe Myrtles and a "St. Mark's Style Breakfast". Crepe Myrtles and Blueberry bushes in one gallon pots are available for \$5 each. For information regarding varieties and to place orders, please call 328-4274 or 328-3830. It is likely that the supply of plants at the sale will be low, so preorders are encouraged. The " St. Mark's Style Breakfast" will be served in the Parish Hall from 8:00 a.m. til noon for \$5 per person. It will include specialties from the ladies including both sweet and savory breakfast casseroles, cinnamon rolls, fresh fruit, and muffins - all served with coffee and juice. Tours of the historic 163-year-old church and campus are guided or self-guided, your choice. Docents will be available to show you around or you may tour on your own by using a self-guided tour booklet.

Colossians 3:23

Trinity Take Home Paper

Calendar - Announcements - Reports - Schedules

5th Sunday of Pentecost July 9, 2017

The Rev. Tony Powell, Rector

The vision of Trinity Church is to be relevant to the Lake Region Community serving and drawing others to the gospel of Jesus Christ as a growing Episcopal Church.

YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AT TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

We are pleased that you have come to worship with us this Lord's Day morning, and it is our prayer that you will receive God's blessing throughout the service. Trinity is an active and caring Episcopal Church. If you are a baptized Christian, you are welcome to come to the altar rail to receive the Sacrament of the Bread and Wine, the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. God loves you. No Exceptions!

JULY 22ND - CHICKEN DINNER AND AUCTION

The Good Old Summertime Chicken Dinner and Basket Auction are right around the corner and some amazing baskets have already been turned in to be wrapped. This event is always a fun and exciting and the chicken from Fryers is yummy along with the side dishes and Ice Cream Sundaes! You can get your tickets from Virginia Smith or in the office. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults or \$5.00 for kids under 12. Come and see what special treasures in the silent basket auction you now can't live without and didn't even know you needed!



POPCORN AND A MOVIE



Movie nights have become great fun and we have been blessed to have members of the community join us on the 4th Thursday nights of each month for our movies. All of the movies are family friendly so people of all ages are happily invited to attend. If you'd like to enjoy an inexpensive (aka Free) night out with popcorn, drinks and candy along with a terrific show and some friends, come and enjoy the movie. Doors open at 6:00pm and the movies start at 6:30pm Our next movie night will be Thursday, July 27th.

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY CHURCH

Sun. 7/9

One Service 10:00am
9:00am Discussion of the Lessons
11:00am JC and the Gospel
Refreshments in the Parish Hall

Monday 7/10

9:00am Morning Prayer
10:00am Tai Chi

Tuesday 7/11

5:30pm AA in Wicker Room
7:00pm Al Anon in Wicker Room

Wednesday 7/12

9:00am Morning Prayer
6:00pm Holy Eucharist and Healing

Thursday 7/13

Thrift Shop 10am—4pm
10:00am Tai Chi Class

Friday 7/14

Thrift Shop 2pm—5pm

Saturday 7/15

Thrift Shop 9am—Noon

Sun. 7/16

One Service 10:00am
9:00am Discussion of the Lessons
11:00am JC and the Gospel
Refreshments in the Parish Hall

FUTURE EVENTS

During June and July there will be only one service each Sunday at 10:00. Adult Education will start at 9:00am and there will be refreshments following the service.

JULY

July 11 PH in Use pm
July 19 Vestry
July 20 Grill and Chill
July 22 Good Old Summertime
Chicken Dinner and
Basket Auction
July 29 Men’s Club

AUGUST

Aug. 6 First Sunday
One Service in PH 10am
Potluck lunch
Aug. 11 PH in Use pm
Aug. 12 PH in use
Aug. 13 Cursillo Ultreya here
Aug. 16 Vestry
Aug. 17 Grill and Chill
Aug. 19 PH in use
Aug 26 Men’s Club



Altar Flowers

The flowers on the altar are dedicated to the glory of God.

If you would like to give flowers in memory of, gratitude for, or to celebrate a person or event, please call the office.

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Dear Friends,

This past Sunday we spoke of Christians as human agents of God. In a recent article, J.R. Kirk, Pastoral Director of Newbiggin Fellowship and former professor at Fuller Theological Seminary, addresses the reality of our relationship with God.

Kirks writes, “One of the problems with getting all super spiritual is that we sometimes tend to... well... spiritualize everything. We think we are learning new levels of faith and trust when we look to God alone—not realizing that God has given us people around us for the purpose of speaking wisdom, caring for us, and receiving our care.

We think that our prayers have reached a newfound level of purity when we leave aside requests for things, petitions for inner transformation, and celebration of what has happened for us, celebrating God only for “who God is” in and of Godself. And in so doing we completely ignore the fact that we only know God as God is in relationship to the world and that no prayer in scripture ever takes such a super spiritual line.

We are part of the story. Our communities are part of the story. God has chosen to be known in and by the story that unfolds in scripture and the history of the church. Risky? Yes. But it’s what God has done. This story of God at work in the world is a story in which the way God works is through involvement in the lives of human agents. In fact, human agents become the very embodiments of God on earth.

Jesus seizes idea that a human being would be the very presence of God. In Mark 2, a man is lowered from a roof to Jesus, and Jesus forgives his sins. Jesus forgives his sins and then claims, “The Human One [Son of Man] has authority on earth to forgive.” God gave first humanity, the theophany of God, authority upon the earth. That authority was representative of God’s own rule.

Jesus claims that God is restoring what was lost. Divine authority is present upon the earth again. The reign of God has come near. And it has come near in the human being anointed by the Spirit to rule the world on God’s behalf. No one can forgive sins but God alone. And, God has bestowed this authority on the fully human Jesus. So as this scene resolves, Matthew tells us that the people marvel at the authority that God had given to (or among) people. God’s grace, human agents: Forgiveness does not remain cloistered in heaven with God. It is not piled up in a stack next to the divine throne waiting to be dispersed on judgment day, or even waiting for the right prayer request to activate its flight to earth. Forgiveness has been sent down to earth already. The Spirit has borne it down and bestowed it upon the man Jesus. And, Jesus has entrusted it to his followers.

“Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven. Whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven,” he says to his followers in Matthew. In