

ALL SAINTS' E-LETTER

VOLUME 10 ISSUE 7

JULY 2020

A MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Saints,

My wife, Mikayla, has finally moved in with me (thanks be to God!). We've been living apart for exactly 4 years, and having her here on a permanent basis has reminded me of the first apartment we shared together. When we were last co-habiting, we were in seminary and living in a really depressing building on what was affectionately known as "manslaughter street", surrounded on all sides by an abandoned Winchester gun factory. It was on the bottom floor and had bars on the windows, which felt oddly in line with how we felt about seminary, where we not only had to contend with a rigorous academic workload, but a certain "wandering through the wilderness" as we discerned God's call to us. I remember locking myself in that apartment for a week after convincing myself that I had failed my General Ordination exams. And I had a panic attack in our living room after graduation as Mikayla and I separated our things out of that apartment and sent them off to our new posts in South Dakota and California.

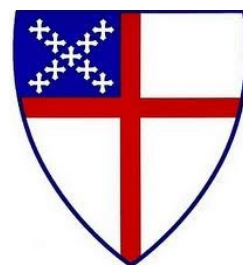
While I shared that place with someone that I loved, it was still a place of despair. And that's why I bring it up. Right now, hope feels as though it's in short supply. We've got seemingly intractable political arguments, rising numbers of COVID cases despite months of sacrifice, economic despair, and the simple fear of loneliness.

So in light of this, I want to look at two verses from the scriptures that talk about Christian hope. The first is from Romans 8:24, "Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen?"

The second verse is from Hebrews 11:1, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

Now, both of these verses imply that whatever hope is, it doesn't reside in what we can see. In fact, both verses sort of imply that our perceptions of the world around us and how it works will be despair-inducing. When we look at the world around us, we may not see reason to hope.

But Christian faith operates according to a logic that is very different from the logic we see when we look at the world around us. In the words of a parishioner that I had coffee with this morning, God has a different "horizon" than we do. When we look at our lives, when we try to peer into our futures, we tend to do so according to what you might call the logic of finitude and limited resources. We use the logic of the "zero-sum game". We think that our happiness and the world's good is dependent upon forces that we can see and control, and that those forces are limited. When we look at things that make us feel hopeless, what we're seeing is just what's there.



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A MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR (CON'TD)

But Christian faith operates according to a different logic. It is not the logic of finite resources or zero-sum games. The horizon of Christian faith is the horizon of super-abundance. It's the logic of a benign providence that's not limited by the chains of causality that we perceive around us. In Matthew 19:26, Jesus says, "For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible." In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul praises God, "whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine." Here we see a critique of our logic of finitude and how it contrasts with the power of God, which is not subject to such limitations.

This is the logic of Christian hope, which does not reside in what we see, but exceeds (by far!) what we could ever see. And this is our tradition. It is the logic of creation: God created the world, not out of existing resources or existing patterns of causality, but from nothing. It's the logic of the resurrection. Ostensibly, death is the ultimate limitation on our lives and on our horizon. And yet, even death cannot stop God's work.

Whatever is making you feel hopeless right now. Wherever you are trapped in the logic of finitude, and wherever that kind of thinking has given you over to despair, my prayer is that you would have an encounter with the God of hope, who is not limited by what we can see, and who has hope that is grounded in something beyond the situation as we perceive it.

When I look back on our little apartment, I don't just see it solely as a place of limitation and suffering. I see it as more of a gateway or an incubator. I look at it as a place pregnant with the whole of my wife and I's future. So much that is good in our lives today came out of what was made possible by that dreadful little place: Professional calling, deep friends, and above all, a marriage through which we strive to understand God's love for us in our mutual love for each other.

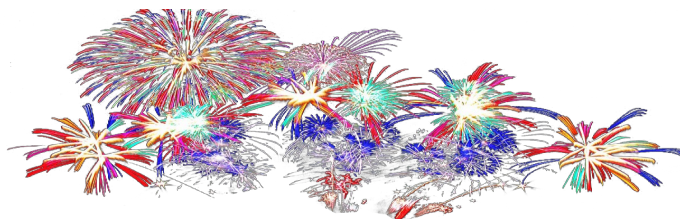
So when God handed us the keys to 303 "Manslaughter St.", he didn't see the limits. He saw our future, a future filled with hope. So my prayer for all of us is, in whatever situation is bringing despair, that you would see not human logic of finitude, but God's logic of hope.

Yours in Christ,

Charlie+

SUNDAY SERVICE PROTOCOL

This past week, Fr. Charlie walked the Flathead County Health Department through our Sunday morning protocols. They were very impressed, and have certified that we have met the social distancing and sanitation requirements laid out by Governor Bullock's COVID-19 Phase 2 Directive. However, given that Montana has seen a spike in cases the last week, we must be more vigilant than ever. The FCCHD would like to reiterate that people aged 65 and older, people who live in long term care facilities, people who are immuno-compromised, or people with underlying medical conditions, are still encouraged to stay home as much as possible.



NOONDAY PRAYER

For the past 2 months, we've gathered for noonday prayer on Zoom. However, one of the strengths of our tradition is its emphasis on common prayer, a certain connectedness with the unceasing prayer offered beyond time and space. As a part of their summer programming, Camp Marshall is hosting daily morning prayer every weekday at 10am, with campers and priests from all over the diocese leading prayers, intercessions, scripture readings and homilies. In the spirit of common prayer, we'd like to join in the throng, and will be putting our virtual noonday prayer offering on hiatus. In the meantime, you are encouraged to join our neighbors in the Flathead and throughout the diocese in prayer.



<https://www.youtube.com/user/CampMarshall>

MEDITATION GROUP

Thursday evenings at 5:30, we've begun a weekly meditation that meets over in the memorial garden (or spaced out in the church, depending on the mosquito situation!). For the time being, this group will focus on the practice of *Lectio Divina*, or "holy reading". If you are looking to encounter scripture in a new way, to enhance your prayer life, or simply snag a few moments of silence towards the end of the week, this group might be for you.

And if there is a certain prayer, meditation, or spiritual practice you'd like to learn more about, please let Fr. Charlie know.

SAINTS AND SAGES

James and J Rosamond Johnson composed one of the world's most beloved, and hopeful, hymns.

*Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on 'til victory is won.*

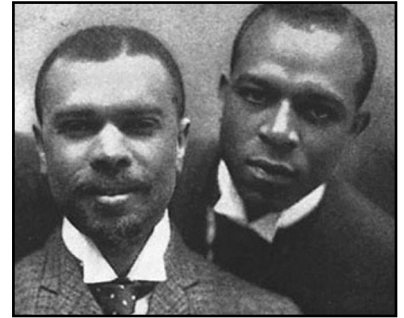
James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938) was an educator, attorney, novelist, poet, and songwriter. His brother, John Rosamond Johnson (1873-1954) was a singer, composer, and Harlem Renaissance leader. The brothers were born in Jacksonville, Florida into the tumult of reestablishing the Union after the Civil War (1861-1865). This seething cauldron combined with their loving family formed their voices.

After Lincoln, President Andrew Johnson led the reestablishment of the Union. He required the rebelling Confederate states to adopt the 13th Amendment (1865, abolishing slavery) and have 10% of eligible voters swear allegiance to the USA. He left Black suffrage to the States and pardoned Confederate leaders clearing them to hold elected offices. Following their rebelling states' readmission, they enacted Black Codes denying suffrage and restricting the rights of people of color.

Congress reacted. In 1866 they passed--overriding Johnson's veto--the Civil Rights Bill and approved the 14th Amendment (ratified in 1868) granting citizenship to "all persons born or naturalized" in the USA

SAINTS AND SAGES

with “equal protection”. The Reconstruction Act of 1867, also passed over Johnson’s veto, weakened the Black Codes. In 1870, Congress approved the 15th Amendment stating voting rights cannot be “abridged on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.” During Reconstruction (1863-1877), more than 1,500 black men held elected office. Following Reconstruction, Black access to voting was limited, lynching and violence increased, and the Supreme Court upheld the segregationist Jim Crow laws in Plessy v. Ferguson (1896).



In 1899, James and J Rosamond captured the hurt and hope of the Country in their hymn to commemorate Abraham Lincoln. On Lincoln’s birthday, Feb 12, 1900, 500 children from the segregated Stanton School where James was principal sang it to the world. Then, as now, it names the agony of the past, holds the present accountable, and calls us to a just future.

For more information see

Biographies of the Johnsons: <https://www.atlantasymphony.org/About/Artists/Composers/Johnson-Johnson>

Music and Lyrics: https://hymnary.org/text/lift_every_voice_and_sing

Performance of original 1900 score: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ktrS2DmMcsc>

Juneteenth 2020, a Safer At Home Celebration <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jufE7HuY5nI>

SCAM ALERT

Recently, the diocese reported that scammers have created fake email accounts for several clergy in order to ask for money from their parishes in the context of an “emergency situation”. Obviously, they were not very good Episcopalians, since they had Fr. Charlie writing from his “Temple Office”, asking for folks to buy eBay gift cards. While the “Temple Office” does have a nice ring to it, please know that the clergy and staff of All Saints’ will never ask for resources in such a manner. If you get one of these emails, just block and delete!



THE E-LETTER AND THE CURRENT SITUATION

With that all is going on where the COVID virus is concerned, a lot of the things that would be reported in the monthly e-letter are not going to be happening.

Fear not, though! Hopefully we’ll be able to put out the calendar, service changes in times or requirements, changes in the various Zoom meeting topics, etc. so you’ll know what’s afoot at All Saints’.

For those of you who are out of state, or unable to get to church for other reasons, we hope to be able to send out photos of the progression of our expansion as well.

There may be further changes as we figure out with Charlie the way things are going to be going forward.

In the meantime, we’ll try to keep the e-letter coming your way, short as it may be.



JULY ZOOM 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Morning Prayer 10 am Bible Study 10:30-12 noon	2 Morning Prayer 10 am Office Hour 11:00-12:00 pm	3 Morning Prayer 10 am Happy Hour 5:00-6:00 pm	4
5 Coffee Hour 12:00-1:00 pm	6 Morning Prayer 10 am Office Hours 11:00-12:00pm 2:00-3:00 pm	7 Morning Prayer 10 am Office Hour 5:00pm-6:00pm	8 Morning Prayer 10 am Bible Study 10:30-12 noon	9 Morning Prayer 10 am Office Hour 11:00-12:00 pm	10 Morning Prayer 10 am Happy Hour 5:00-6:00 pm	11
12 Coffee Hour 12:00am-1:00 pm	13 Morning Prayer 10 am Office Hours 11:00-12:00pm 2:00-3:00 pm	14 Morning Prayer 10 am Office Hour 5:00pm-6:00pm	15 Morning Prayer 10 am Bible Study 10:30-12 noon	16 Morning Prayer 10 am Office Hour 11:00-12:00 pm	17 Morning Prayer 10 am Happy Hour 5:00-6:00 pm	18
19 Coffee Hour 12:00-1:00 pm	20 Morning Prayer 10 am Office Hours 11:00-12:00pm 2:00-3:00 pm	21 Morning Prayer 10 am Office Hour 5:00pm-6:00pm	22 Morning Prayer 10 am Bible Study 10:30-12 noon	23 Morning Prayer 10 am Office Hour 11:00-12:00 pm	24 Morning Prayer 10 am Happy Hour 5:00-6:00 pm	25
26 Coffee Hour 12:00-1:00 pm	27 Morning Prayer 10 am Office Hours 11:00-12:00pm 2:00-3:00 pm	28 Morning Prayer 10 am Office Hour 5:00pm-6:00pm	29 Morning Prayer 10 am Bible Study 10:30-12 noon	30 Morning Prayer 10 am Office Hour 11:00-12:00 pm	31 Morning Prayer 10 am Happy Hour 5:00-6:00 pm	

COVID-19 SERVICE CHANGES AND PRECAUTIONS

Welcome Back!

For the love of your neighbor, please :

- **WEAR A MASK WHILE INDOORS.**
- **REMAIN 6'-10' APART.**
- **SING GENTLY.**
- **AVOID TOUCHING SURFACES.**
- **WASH YOUR HANDS!**

Thank You!

We resumed public worship services on May 24th adhering to guidelines set forth by the Bishop's office and in compliance with Montana's phased approach to reopening The Big Sky. In addition to the guidelines above, you can expect the following changes:

- ♦ **2 additional services (7:30 am and 7:00pm both without music) help achieve proper social distancing**
- ♦ **Masks must be worn at all times indoors (we have bandanas if you don't have a mask)**
- ♦ **Doors open for extra ventilation and air circulation**
- ♦ **All hymnals and BCPs removed from pews**
- ♦ **Large bulletins containing the entirety of the service available for everyone**
- ♦ **Every other pew roped off**
- ♦ **If you share a household, you can share a pew**
- ♦ **Changes to the order of the service**
- ♦ **Communion distributed outside**
- ♦ **Post communion prayer said outside after distribution of communion**

A complete list of the Sunday services can be found on the following page.



SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

7:30 am - service only, no music

9:00 am - service with hymns

9:00 am service is also streamed live on Facebook

10:00-11:00 am - Drive through communion

11:00 am - service with hymns

7:00 pm – service only, no music

ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH ORGANIZATION

Church location:

2048 Conn Road
Columbia Falls, MT
Phone: 406-862-2863

Church mailing address:

PO Box 1923
Whitefish, MT 59937

Rector: Reverend Charlie Knuth
Email: cknuth@allsaintsmt.org
Cell: 801-635-5162

Parish Administrator: Shawn Sloan
Email: allsaintsmt@gmail.com
Cell: 406-291-3613

Christian Formation Minister/Children and
Youth: Cynthia Benkelman
Email: cynthia@allsaintsmt.org
Cell: 406-261-9636

*Glory to God, whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more than we can ask or
imagine: Glory to him from generation to
generation in the church, and in Christ
Jesus forever. and ever.*

Find us here:

Just click on the link!

Facebook link: [https://
www.facebook.com/allsaintsmt](https://www.facebook.com/allsaintsmt)

YouTube link: [http://
www.youtube.com/channel/
UCPZ_oAI6n1GwSPS5dIAkzdA](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPZ_oAI6n1GwSPS5dIAkzdA)

Webpage link: [http://
www.allsaintsmt.org](http://www.allsaintsmt.org)

Vestry Members

Rector: Reverend Charlie Knuth
Senior Warden: Leif Peterson
Junior Warden: Grace Benkelman
Treasurer: Carl Thomas
Clerk: Kathy Thomas
Cynthia Benkelman
Betsy Paugh
Heidi Sobczak
Henry Stamm

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