

The Olive Branch

January 3, 2018

Accent on Worship

Pastor Joseph Crippen

Whose voice?

Who tells you the truth about you? Whose voice do you listen to about yourself? Do some voices tell you you're not worth much? Are there voices that repeatedly talk over yours, making you feel insignificant? Are there voices that speak love to you? Voices that cut you down? Some of us even have voices inside that criticize us or make us anxious.

When Jesus entered the Jordan to be baptized, we don't know what he knew about his identity. His mother must have said things, but his ministry only began after this baptism. Did he learn something there? Because there was a voice that spoke to him there.

When he'd been baptized, Jesus saw the heavens split open and the Spirit descend, and he heard this from his Father: "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

On Sunday we'll hear of God's voice speaking at creation, of "I AM's" voice, the God of Israel, moving mountains, flashing lightning, shaking the wilderness. And we'll hear God the Father say to God the Son, "You are my beloved Son, I am pleased with you."

On Sunday we will also remember our own baptism. We'll be sprinkled with water again, we will hear again the promise of God's grace given in our baptismal washing. And we'll hear the same voice of the Triune God say to us, "You are my Child, my Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

That's the voice that matters. That's the voice that tells us the deepest truth about each of us, the only truth that counts. You are God's beloved, God's child, and God is pleased with you. When Jesus left his baptism, he began his ministry with the sure and certain knowledge that he was God's beloved child.

And so do you. Hold that voice in your heart, trust it. The Triune God who made you, who brought you healing and life in dying and rising from the dead, who fills you with the Spirit, says you are God's beloved child. That's your truth. Knowing that, you can go and be Christ in the world, live in love with confidence. Knowing that, in your darkness and fear you can cry out: I am God's beloved! Because if God says this about you, who can say anything different that matters in the least?

In Christ,



Sunday Readings

January 7, 2018 Baptism of Our Lord

Genesis 1:1-5

Psalm 29

Acts 19:1-7

Mark 1:4-11

January 14, 2018 Second Sunday after Epiphany

I Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

I Corinthians 6:12-20

John 1:43-51

Sunday Adult Forum

This Sunday, January 7, 2018: *"Climate Justice and Environmental Hope: What Are We Called To Do?"* presented by Senator John Marty

Many people and organizations, including this congregation, are making personal and community commitments and recognizing the need for societal change to address the health and ongoing life of the whole of creation on earth. What are the ways to address this crisis? How can we be this prophetic voice in our society?

Senator John Marty represents District 66 in the Minnesota State Senate and is the ranking Minority Member on the Energy and Utilities Finance and Policy Committee.

Next Sunday, January 14, 2018: *"Understanding Implicit Bias: Breaking the Cycle,"* presented by Fred Reuning and Raj Setharaju

Ever since Ferguson, racial justice has been thrust into the forefront of our public consciousness. We have been forced to ask ourselves why racism is still rampant and why we haven't "fixed" it yet. Join Dr. Raj and Fred Reuning as they explore the process of understanding implicit biases from a personal and systemic lens.

Fred Reuning is a med tech marketing professional who escaped from corporate life in 2015. Since then he's been involved in the work of Restorative Justice Community Action (RJCA) and a member of the Commission on Race and Religion at his local church, Minnetonka United Methodist and the Minnesota United Methodist Annual Conference's Commission on Race and Religion.

Dr. Raj Sethuraju is an Assistant Professor in the School of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice at Metropolitan State University. He teaches undergraduate and graduate students in the areas of Victimology, Restorative Justice, and Diversity Matters relating to Law Enforcement and Civic Leadership. Dr. Raj has over 20 years of experience in implementing Diversity initiatives in Universities and the communities surrounding them, providing exclusive growth within the communities he serves.

Cold Weather Gear

Stay warm and keep others cozy! Neighborhood Ministries is collecting coats, hats, scarves, and mittens to be given away during Community Meals this winter. Please drop new or gently used donations in the box by the coat area. Thank you!

Book Discussion

For January 13 meeting, the Book Discussion Group will read the Regeneration Trilogy by Pat Barker. The three novels in the series are: *Regeneration*, *The Eye in the Door*, and *The Ghost Road*. For February 10, they will read *The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym of Nantucket*, by Edgar Allan Poe.

The Book Discussion Group meets on the second Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the West Assembly area. All readers welcome!

Transitions Support Group to Meet This Saturday, January 6, 2018

This group will hold its next get together at the home of Grace Wiechman at 10:00 am this Saturday, January 6.

For more information, please contact Cathy Bosworth, 612-708-1144, marcat8447@yahoo.com or Heather Halen 612-822-0953, hjoyhalen@hotmail.com.

The Olive Branch

Calendar

Wednesday, January 3

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting
6:00 pm Internship Committee meeting
7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsal
8:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Thursday, January 4

- 11:00 am Central Conference meeting

Friday, January 5

- 6-12 pm Narcotics Anonymous social event

Saturday, January 6 - The Epiphany of Our Lord

- 9:30 am Confirmation
11:00 am Diaper Depot open
Noon Community Meal
1-3 pm Prayer Shawl group meets at Blackeye Roasting Co.
7:00 pm *Epiphany Eucharist*

Sunday, January 7 - The Baptism of Our Lord

- 8:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and fellowship
9:30 am Sunday Church School / Adult Forum
10:45 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and fellowship
Noon Theological Discussion group

Monday, January 8

- 7:00pm Vestry meeting
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, January 9

- Noon Bible Study
4:00 pm Diaper Depot open
6:00 pm Stewardship Committee meeting



HELP
WANTED!

- A volunteer or two are needed videotape the sermon one Sunday every 4-6 weeks. Can be done for either liturgy. Training and all equipment are provided. Call Paul at 612-296-0055 for more information.

Epiphany Worship at Mount Olive

The Epiphany of Our Lord: Saturday, January 6, 2018

Holy Eucharist at 7:00 p.m.

The Baptism of Our Lord: Sunday, January 7, 2018

Holy Eucharist at 8:00 & 10:45 a.m.

Arias, Songs, and Keys

*A Recital by Baritone Chandler Molbert and Soprano Tricia Van Ee, with Pianist Jill Dawe
Sunday, January 14, 2018 - 4:00 pm*

Mount Olive Music and Fine Arts is pleased to host a delightful afternoon of arias, songs, and piano music featuring local free-lance professional singers (and Mount Olive members!) Chandler Molbert and Tricia Van Ee, with pianist Jill Dawe. They will be performing works by Schubert, Vaughan Williams, and Brahms. Also featured will be Mount Olive's recently acquired Steinway piano.

A reception follows in the Chapel Lounge.

Thanks from Your Church Staff

Many thanks to the people of Mount Olive for the generous Christmas gifts we received, and for all your kindness and support throughout the year! You are Christ to us in so many ways, and we are deeply grateful for you in our lives.

Blessings and peace to you all in this new year in God's care!

- The staff of Mount Olive:

David Cherwien, Jessica Christy, Joseph Crippen, Cha Posz, Anna Scott, and James Wilkes



*Mount Olive kids baked
Christmas cookies for the
December 20 Community Meal.*

News From the Neighborhood

Volunteers Needed!

Our Sheridan Story partner Jefferson Community School is looking for afterschool teachers for next semester. Afterschool classes are 4:10-5:20pm Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. If you are interested in teaching an after school class, based on a special hobby or skill contact Steve Schriver (Community Education Coordinator) at Stephan.Schriver@mpls.k12.mn.us.

Thank you!

In this holiday season, the Mount Olive community helped provide 85 gift bags to our Diaper Depot visitors, 6 beautiful home baskets for Our Saviour's Housing residents, and an amazingly generous outpouring of support for the families of Kytonia and Ebony. THANK YOU for your care, support, and love of neighbor. Thank you for all the ways that you serve seen and unseen. May 2017 be a time to cherish lessons learned and efforts well spent, and blessings as we move on to 2018 and the opportunities ahead to live, move, and have our being as the church.



Cherish All Children Super Bowl "Kick-off"
Saturday, January 13, 2018. 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., Lutheran Social Service, 1605 Eustis St., Saint Paul

Come join us to learn how the faith community can support service providers working to curb sex trafficking around the Super Bowl and beyond!

Hear from Sgt. Grant Snyder about how the law enforcement community works with service providers 365 days a year to end sex trafficking, and specific Super Bowl efforts. Then experts from The Link, Breaking Free, and Streetworks will share how the faith community can support them – with specific volunteer needs to support Super Bowl efforts.

You've asked, "What can we do?" Here's one way to get started: [Register Here](#) for this free event, and make a difference in our communities!

Questions? Email info@cherishchildren.org or contact Joy McElroy 651-207-3357.



**Restorative
Justice**
COMMUNITY ACTION

Understanding Implicit Bias:
Breaking the Cycle

Facilitated by *Dr. Raj

Wednesday, January 17, 6:30PM-9:30PM

Historic Wesley Center

101 E Grant St., Minneapolis 55403

Please send RSVP to info@rjca-inc.org by Tuesday, Jan 16th

*Dr. Raj is Assistant Professor in the School of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice at Metropolitan State University and is the 2016 recipient of the St. Paul Foundation's Facing Race Ambassador Award.

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

Sunday Eucharist: 8:00 & 10:45 am

Contact Us

Phone: 612/827-5919

On the Web: mountolivechurch.org

Staff

Pastor – *Joseph Crippen*

Cantor – *David Cherwien*

Vicar – *Jessica Christy*

Coordinator of Neighborhood Outreach
and Ministry – *Anna Scott*

Administrative Assistant – *Cha Posz*

Sexton – *James Wilkes*

*Mount Olive is a Reconciling in Christ
congregation.*

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