



Christ Episcopal Church

1216 Seventh Street, Anacortes, WA 98221

360-293-5790 office@christchurchanacortes.org

www.christchurchanacortes.org

Weekly Update 11 January 2018

Reflection

Shirley Barrett

Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson is a book I just finished and was so impressed with. It is a true story about the injustice taking place in the judicial and prison system, particularly in the Deep South, in regards to the poor, people of color, the marginalized, and children as young as thirteen and fourteen sentenced as adults. Mr. Stevenson is an attorney who founded the Equal Justice Initiative, which represents and advocates for fair and merciful justice for those with who have been sentenced to death or to life in prison without any chance of parole. While there are many topics presented and needing discussion, two focal points struck me at this time: (1) We all are broken in some ways and (2) The challenge to be a “stone catcher.”

The author states that there are many ways we are broken: when we hurt someone or have been hurt, when we make choices that aren't the best or even downright bad and sometimes by situations or things we'd never choose. But this brokenness is what unites all of us. The struggles each of us experience may completely “disconnect” us from one another, yet we all are connected through “...our search for comfort, meaning and healing. Our shared vulnerability and imperfection nurtures and sustains our capacity for compassion.” This idea that we share in our brokenness made me instantly think of our connection to Jesus, the son of God. It was through his birth as a human with all the brokenness that would come to Him, that binds us to Him. We just celebrated that birth in the wonder of Christmas. Soon during Lent we will walk with Him through his trials with that brokenness, up to his final sentencing to death upon the cross. It was through His willingness to suffer that we received God's mercy to be united in our ultimate home with Him. Stevenson further states, “I am more than broken. In fact, there is a strength, a power even, in understanding brokenness, because embracing our brokenness creates a need and desire for mercy, and perhaps a corresponding need to show mercy. When you experience mercy, you learn things that are hard to learn otherwise. You see things you can't otherwise see; you hear things you can't otherwise hear. You begin to recognize the humanity that resides in each of us.” It is that just mercy that can help us to accept the challenge to be a “stone catcher.”

During one of Mr. Stevenson's cases he met an older lady sitting in the many court dates. He eventually discovered this woman to be a grandmother of a young boy who was murdered fifteen years earlier by other boys. He assumed she was there in memory of her grandson, weeping for him, but she was actually there to be a “stone catcher” for all suffering the brokenness of the events taking place. In her words, “... When I first came, I'd look for people who had lost someone to murder or some violent crime. Then it got to the point where some of the ones grieving the most were the ones whose children or parents were on trial, so I just started letting anybody lean on me who needed it. All these young children being sent to prison forever, all this grief and violence. Those judges throwing people away like they're not even human, people shooting each other, hurting each other like they don't care. I don't know, it's a lot of pain. I decided that I was supposed to be here to catch some of the stones people cast at each other.” “Let he who is without sin cast the first stone,” Jesus told us. Through forgiveness, compassion, just mercy, through the strength God gives us to deal with brokenness, we all need to not only not throw the stone, but also catch the stones thrown at others as we share in their brokenness.

January 14

The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

8:00 am

Holy Eucharist

Christ Church
Reverend Diane Ramerman
Guy Davidson

9:00 am—Noon

Child Care

Parish Hall Children's Room
Caregivers Yohana Agreda & Jocelyn Bruno

9:00 —10:15 am

Godly Play

Parish Hall Godly Play Room
Storyteller: Laura Vogel
Doorkeeper: Yohana Agreda

9:15—10:15 am

Adult Faith Formation

Parish Hall Gathering Room
Breakfast at 9:00 am

9:30 am

Communion Service

Chandler's Square Community
Worship Leader: Sara Andrews

10:30 am

Holy Eucharist

Christ Church
Presider: Reverend Diane Ramerman
Deacon: Deacon Brian Lennstrom
Preacher: Mr. Guy Davidson
Altar Guild: Janis Larkins, Dee Roberts
Eucharistic Minister/Crucifer: Charlene Corbin
Reader 1: Betty Anne McCoy
Reader 2: Shirley Barrett
Ushers: Shirley Barrett, Elaine Oliphant

Coffee Hour

Mary Gronholt

Tellers

Gary Anderson, Frank McCoy

Readings

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever.

1 Samuel 3:1-20

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. The Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

Then the Lord said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever." Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." He said, "Here I am." Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also,

if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.” So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, “It is the Lord; let him do what seems good to him.”

As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord.

Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17

Lord, you have searched me out and known me; *
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.

You trace my journeys and my resting-places *
and are acquainted with all my ways.

Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, *
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

You press upon me behind and before *
and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; *
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

For you yourself created my inmost parts; *
you knit me together in my mother’s womb.

I will thank you because I am marvelously made; *
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.

My body was not hidden from you, *
while I was being made in secret
and woven in the depths of the earth.

Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb;
all of them were written in your book; *
they were fashioned day by day,
when as yet there was none of them.

How deep I find your thoughts, O God! *
how great is the sum of them!

If I were to count them, they would be more in number
than the sand; *
to count them all, my life span would need to
be like yours.

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are beneficial. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything. “Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food,” and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, “The two shall be one flesh.” But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

John 1:43-51

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Announcements

Adult Faith Formation

Sundays

Breakfast at 9:00 am

Class 9:15-10:15 am

Parish Hall Gathering Room

Program through February 11: *Those Who Sing, Pray Twice!*

The Episcopal tradition has a long history of chanting. Since ancient times, psalms and canticles, prayers, dialogue, scripture, and other liturgical texts have been sung to many types of melodic formulas. Chanting with an intention to open our hearts and minds to the presence of God helps us to be quiet in the face of mystery and learn how to hear what God has to say to us. Join in the fun, joy and mystery of experiencing plainchant!

All are welcome.

Godly Play

Godly Play will meet on January 7, 14, & 28.

9:00—10:15 am

Parish Hall Godly Play Room

Lesson for January 14: *Ezekiel*

Child Care

Weekly on Sundays

9:00 am—Noon

Caregivers: Yohana & Jocelyn

Parish Hall Children's Room

Spiritual Book Group

Thursday, January 18

1:30 pm

Parish Hall Gathering Room

We will be discussing *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho.

All are welcome.

Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 21

11:45 am

Parish Hall Gathering Room

Annual Meeting Brunch

Please bring a salad or dessert for our Annual Meeting Brunch. Entrée and rolls will be provided.

Parish Hall Renovation Meeting

Thursday, January 25

2:00—3:00 pm

Parish Hall Gathering Room

Weekday Prayer Services

Morning Prayer: Wednesdays, 8:00—8:30 am

Centering Prayer: Thursdays, 1:00—1:30 pm

Gentle Yoga Class

Weekly on Mondays

3:00 pm

Parish Hall Gathering Room

Class is free and all are welcome.

Men's Group

Weekly on Fridays

8:00 am

Parish Hall Conference Room

Please join us. All are welcome.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Second & fourth Fridays

3:00—5:00 pm

Parish Hall Gathering Room

Please join us for this prayerful ministry and spiritual practice.

All are welcome.

The Red Door Thrift Shop

A Ministry of Christ Episcopal Church

1019 Seventh Street, Anacortes

360-293-8027

Profits from our Red Door Thrift Shop fund Christ Church's Community Support program.

Shop Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday, 11:00 am - 5:00 pm

Donation Hours: Monday through Friday, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Volunteers and donations are always welcome.

Clergy Schedule

10:30 am Eucharist

January 21

Presider: Reverend Diane Ramerman

Deacon: Deacon Eric Johnson

Preacher: Reverend Diane Ramerman

Reverend Carol Rodin at St. James Church, Sedro-Woolley.

January 28

Presider: Reverend Carol Rodin

Deacon: Deacon Eric Johnson

Preacher: Reverend Carol Rodin

The Week Ahead...

Monday, January 15

Martin Luther King Day

Gentle Yoga Class
3:00—4:00 pm
Parish Hall Gathering Room

Choir Practice
5:00 pm
Parish Hall Gathering Room

Tuesday, January 16

AMC Music
7:00—8:30 pm
Parish Hall Gathering Room

Wednesday, January 17

Morning Prayer
8:00—8:30 am
Christ Church Sanctuary

The Red Door Linen Group
10:00 am—Noon
Parish Hall Gathering Room

Education for Ministry
12:30—2:45 pm
Parish Hall Conference Room

Ministry Support Circle Meeting
3:00—5:00 pm
Parish Hall Conference Room

Celebration Church LT Meeting
7:30—9:00 pm
Parish Hall Gathering Room

Thursday, January 18

Worship Team Meeting
9:30 am—Noon
Parish Hall Gathering Room

Centering Prayer
1:00—1:30 pm
Christ Church Sanctuary

Spiritual Book Group
1:30—2:30 pm
Parish Hall Gathering Room

Friday, January 19

Men's Group
8:00 am
Parish Hall Conference Room

Office Volunteers
9:00—10:00 am
Parish Hall Gathering Room

Pastoral Care Circle Meeting
9:30 am
Parish Hall Conference Room