



The Periodic...

(A somewhat regular but mostly irregular publication)

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OUR LIFE TOGETHER...

Jesus never said that being church would be easy. Bring together people of different ages, experiences, hopes, struggles, backgrounds, fears, likes, wants, needs, family dynamics, political understandings and faith maturity mix them up and challenge them to love and serve God as they work as cooperative friends of Jesus, living with a view to creative goodness in humble submission for the sake of others. We are just not raised to think or act that way, especially living in the shadow of the enlightenment and baby boom, 'me first' mindset. Add to the mix our current culture of understanding the 'other' as enemy whom we seek to destroy by proving them to be wrong, stupid and in many cases evil (see current political and social discourse in this country and then look at Jesus' definition of murder in his Sermon on the Mount) no wonder being church together can feel so difficult. That is in part why so many people just give up on church and quit, it is just beyond the scope of our ability. And it is. Except this.

That Jesus has set for us an example of how to live this life of obedient faithful submission to God and humble gracious service to others and has given to us the gift of the Holy Spirit to equip and remind us that we are not left as orphans.

Being church together is not always pretty, it is often messy and always imperfect, but it can also be good and beautiful and loving, a place where people are accepted for who they are not who we want them to be, a place where grace and forgiveness triumph. Being church means continually seeking God together, engaging in a never ending conversation about doubt and faith, hurt and restoration, sorrow and joy all while remembering it is only one six billionth about us.

We are, after all, the ongoing incarnation of God on earth, so let us start living like it, together.

QUITE UNLIKE YOU...

July 1 falls on a Sunday this year. So Todd and I thought it might be a great idea for the two churches to celebrate Canada Day together. We will begin with a Pancake breakfast at 8:30, and then around 9:00 move upstairs for a joint service. The service will kick off our summer sermon series, "Quite unlike you: an exploration of some rather different Christian faith traditions and practices".

We will be using Richard Foster's book "Streams of Living Water" as we look at people who worship and serve in their life with God in a way quite unlike our own, yet in a way which can inform and deepen our understanding of our faith practices and traditions.

Invocation of the Trinity

St. Patrick's Breastplate

Christ be with me,
Christ within me,
Christ behind me,
Christ before me,
Christ beside me,
Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.

Christ beneath me,
Christ above me,
Christ in quiet,
Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend & stranger.

I bind unto myself the Name
The strong name of the Trinity;
By invocation of the same,
The Three in One, and One in Three,
Of whom all nature hath creation;
Eternal Father, Spirit, Word;
Praise to the Lord of my salvation,
Salvation is of Christ the LORD.

Little Note: Barclay Mayo and I are attending the triennial Anglican Church of North America General Assembly in Asheville NC June 6-9. What we learn we will pass on to you (or at least try).

On Canada Day Todd and I will each give a brief description of our two churches faith traditions. However, we also want it to be an opportunity for people from the congregations to ask us questions about our traditions and practices, why we do the things we do or why don't we do what they do. So here is your chance to ask question either about St. Timothy and the Anglican tradition or Sutherland and the Plymouth Brethren tradition. Just write out your question and place it in the "Hymn Suggestion Box" on the table in the narthex. When we are done you can go and enjoy the Canada Day Parade or spark up your bbq.

