

## **“Buddy, I think they think I have a body...”**

*For the next few weeks, we’ll be talking about Human Spirituality—what it would mean to have a physically, emotionally, and intellectually-appropriate spirituality. (We might have called it “Incarnational” or “Sacramental” Spirituality, but I like “Human.” It’s more accessible, and better able to address anti-humanness.)*

*Some ways of being “spiritual” are on a collision-course with Christian doctrines of Creation, Incarnation, and Sacrament (which, if you’re not familiar with the theological landscape, are biggies). And, I suspect, as we digest what God is after in “the redemption of humanity,” we’ll see the problem with those ways of being “spiritual.”*

*In Eden and in the Incarnation, we see true humanity. Body, feelings, ideas, and soul not “cut off” from each other, but reconciled and whole. If we believe that this is God’s end-game, shouldn’t our spirituality work towards that and not against it?*

By Dcn. Adam Salter Gosnell

I remember the first time I visited an Anglican church. It was here, actually, at CTR. Rebecca and I went to the 11 o’clock service and we spent nearly the whole time trying to figure out when we were supposed to do what. Afterward, I remember stepping off the curb into the parking lot and I said to Rebecca, “Buddy [don’t judge me, that’s what I call her], I think they think I have a body.”

What an odd thing for a Christian to say, “Buddy, I think they think I have a body.” But it was the stained glass, the bowing, the incense, even the congregational responses. Some church services, I could be at home on my couch with my laptop. But at CTR, there was something radically significant about physically being in the room. Your guys’ “physical” knob is up on 11.

Up until that point (and sometimes since then), I was tempted to think that the physical and the spiritual were radically separate. In fact, I was tempted to think that there was something “spiritual” about rejecting the physical.

But then I thought about Eden. God beheld all he made and he said, “Behold, this is very good.” He made physical stuff. Our having bodies isn’t an accident. That’s by design. I also thought about the Incarnation, God himself taking physical form. We read every Sunday, “born of the virgin Mary.” (Guys, I was in the Delivery Room when my son Joseph was born. And let me tell you, profoundly, profoundly physical.) God himself, crying, burping, pooping. Ten little fingers and toes.

It’s almost like God intends for the physical and the spiritual to overlap. In fact, with Eden in one hand and the Incarnation in the other, it’s mind blowing that I would miss it, but I had. (And, I suspect, many of us have.)

And so the work began. What would it mean for me to imagine a physically-appropriate spirituality?

Well...maybe at the beginning I cross myself when I pray. Maybe sometimes I’d kneel. (He’s King, after all.) Maybe I’d stop bragging about how little sleep I get. Maybe, when my body didn’t do what I wanted it to do, I’d listen to it instead of beating it into submission with copious amounts of caffeine...

As I started to understand, I was convicted. My Christianity had been anti-physical. The problem with being anti-physical is that it’s anti-human. And, to the degree your Christianity is anti-human, it isn’t really Christianity at all.

[“Buddy, I think they think I have a body” is part one of a three-part series on Human Spirituality.]



## Ascended and Enthroned — Commissioning and Empowering

Dear Christ the Redeemer family,

Soon we come to the close of the story we began walking through over two and a half months ago, of Jesus' purposeful journey to Jerusalem, in order to die there, of his being handed over, tortured, condemned, and killed, of his vindication and resurrection as the first fruit of new and ever-lasting life. On Thursday, the 25th, we come to what is perhaps now the most neglected day of the entirety of the church's calendar, at least relative to its importance: Ascension Day.

There was a time when Ascension celebrations were as great or, some say, even greater than those of Easter. Still in several European countries it is a public holiday, some with their own particular celebrations and customs that have been developed along the way: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, the Scandinavian countries, Germany, Switzerland, the Netherlands, and others.

Ascension Day is the fortieth day after Easter Sunday; God seems to like forty as a symbolic number, particularly as a symbolic number of redemption leading to new creation: leading up the flood it rained for forty days and forty nights; the people of Israel ate manna and wondered about in the wilderness for forty years; Moses met with the Lord in the cloud on the mountain for forty days during the time that he received the Ten Commandments; Caleb and Joshua led the spies that went into the promised land on a mission that lasted forty days. Jesus, of course, brought all of this to its culmination when he fasted and prayed and prepared in the wilderness for forty and then stood down the Satan in their tête-à-tête showdown.

On Ascension Day the next great moment in the Gospel story happens on the fortieth day after Jesus' resurrection: Jesus is taken up into heaven and enthroned at the right hand of the Father as the true king of all. Jesus' reign fulfils the vision in Daniel, others in Revelation, as well as prophecies of his great reign in the Psalms (and other scripture as well). This is a great day of triumph! His reign will be everlasting; all his enemies will be made subject to him

and every knee will bend and tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. It's a happy day!

This year on Ascension Day we are going to celebrate in a new way: join us for a covered-dish picnic at Lynch Park in Beverly (55 Ober St, Beverly, MA 01915) on Ascension Day, Thursday, the 25th. We'll begin gathering at 5, and at 6 we'll have a simple Evening Prayer liturgy and time of prayer, especially focussed around the core of our Vision Statement, that the Gospel would capture the imagination of Boston's North Shore to the glory of Jesus Christ. In other words, that Jesus, the King, would receive the glory he deserves and the love, honour, and worship! (A few details: the park is carry-in, carry-out; no grills available. And, should it rain, we'll be at the church for an indoor 'picnic' and prayer.)

Following soon after Ascension is Pentecost (on Sunday, 4th June). This is the day that we celebrate the gift of the Jesus sending us his own Spirit — the Holy Spirit. This day is the birthday of the church; the Spirit is the gift that Jesus promised and considered to be so great that he said the disciples should rejoice that he was going away from them, for then, by his in-dwelling Spirit, he would be with them forever, and with them wherever they were (which has come to mean pretty much all around the world!).

On Sunday, 4th June, we will celebrate Pentecost in one great Festival Day celebration at 10 a.m. Come ready to be filled afresh with the very Spirit of God!

May Jesus Christ be praised,

Fr Tim

## This Week at CTR

### MANOS DE AMOR (Hands of Love) COLLECTION DRIVE:

Help children and adults in the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, and other areas where there is need by donating cleaned clothing, toys, shoes, bedding, bath towels. Items will be collected through May 31st—leave them in the CTR Parish Hall (in the corner near the high round tops.) Donations go straight to the people who will distribute them, so please wash before packing. To learn more about the organization sponsoring this, visit their website at [www.fundacionmanosdeamor.org](http://www.fundacionmanosdeamor.org). Questions? Contact Patricia Charek [pcharek@gmail.com](mailto:pcharek@gmail.com).

**YOUTH NIGHT:** Wednesday, May 24 from 5:30pm - 7pm, grades 6 and up. Bring your friends to play games, hang out and eat together. For more information please contact Fr. Brian, [brian.barry@ctr-anglican.org](mailto:brian.barry@ctr-anglican.org).

**ASCENSION DAY OUTDOOR SERVICE:** Join us at Beverly's Lynch Park on Ascension Day, this Thursday May 25 at 5pm for a pot-luck picnic, followed by an evening prayer service at 6pm. *Please note: There are no grills; Lynch Park is "carry-in carry-out" ie. no trash cans; in case of rain meet at CTR Parish Hall instead.*

## Upcoming Events

**EMAIL CASTING CALL FOR PENTECOST SUNDAY:** If you can say "Praise the Lord" or "We adore You, God!" in a language other than English, please email me, Wendy Dixon at [wendenn@gmail.com](mailto:wendenn@gmail.com). We need as many people as possible to help at the June 4 Pentecost festival day service, at 10am. You can use your native language, your high school French or Spanish, or google "how do you say Praise the Lord in Swahili?" (or whatever language you choose—kids or teens might enjoy this last idea.)

### CONSECRATION OF THE NEW ANGLICAN CATHEDRAL:

On Saturday, June 10 the consecration of All Saints' Anglican Cathedral in Amesbury, MA will be followed by a reception on the cathedral grounds. Come worship and celebrate!

**LA VIDA PARENT-CHILD TRIP:** This summer with Fr. Tim! La Vida, the outdoors education program of Gordon College, is offering a parent-child backpacking trip this summer in the Adirondacks, led by experienced La Vida

staff, with Fr Tim as chaplain. Dates are July 29 - August 5, and the cost is \$1100 per pair. If interested, please contact Fr Tim, [tim.clayton@ctr-anglican.org](mailto:tim.clayton@ctr-anglican.org).

**FAMILY PICNIC—SAVE THE DATE:** Everyone loves an old-fashioned picnic—food, softball, swimming, & more! Come and help fund the fall senior high youth mission trip to work with St. Stephen's Church in Kangole, Uganda! Join us on August 5 at the home of Fr. Malcolm & Dolly Reid. Cost: \$20 per Family / \$10 Singles (all proceeds go towards the mission). Burgers, sides, and drinks provided. See you there! RSVP information coming soon!

North Shore  
Gospel Partnership:  
A NIGHT OF CORPORATE PRAYER

FOR THE REGION OF THE NORTH SHORE  
OUR LOCAL CHURCHES  
SPECIFIC NEEDS  
LISTENING PRAYER

THURSDAY JUNE 8 7PM  
FIRST CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL  
4 GEORGETOWN ROAD, BOXFORD

## Regular Events at CTR

### TUESDAY:

**Weekly Bible Study:** 7:00pm-9:00pm. Contact Richard Thorndike, 978-922-3618, for more information.

### WEDNESDAY:

**Holy Eucharist & Confession:** 6:30-7:30am

### THURSDAY:

**Moms In Prayer International:** 9am-10am Contact Flora Lee, [floraisabella@gmail.com](mailto:floraisabella@gmail.com).

**Women's Bible Study:** 10am -11:30am Contact Kim Ober, [kimwober@msn.com](mailto:kimwober@msn.com). (Last meeting before summer is Thursday, June 1. WBS resumes again in September).

**Choir of CTR:** 7:15pm-9:15pm. New members are welcome and needed. Contact Minister of Music Dan 978-774-3163x105; [dan.mckinley@ctr-anglican.org](mailto:dan.mckinley@ctr-anglican.org).

## The Sixth Sunday of Easter: Life Connected

It's a big world and even greater cosmos — is connection beyond the virtual possible? Jesus' metaphor this week is "I am the true vine" — as in the "source" and "energy" behind it all, and yet accessible to anyone.

[1] *"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. [2] Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. [3] Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. [4] Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.*

[5] *I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. [6] If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. [7] If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.*

[8] *By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.*

[9] *As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. [10] If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. [11] These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. (John 15.1-11, ESV)*

### Notes on this Week's Sermon

Notes:

What I find most surprising in this story is:

What does Jesus say is the key to joy?:

What in this story gives me hope, or joy, or courage, or \_\_\_\_\_:

God, I thank you for:

My prayer:

## Today at CTR

**CHOIRMASTER AND CTR CHOIR:** Are visiting and singing at Massachusetts Correctional Institution, Framingham today.

**FORUM SERIES: 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall:** *I See Satan Fall Like Lightning.* Book exploration and discussion with Fr. Tim.

**SENIOR HIGH LUNCH:** Senior High School students (grades 9-12) have lunch and discussion together with Fr. Brian, following the 11 a.m. service (12:30-1:30 p.m.) in the Sacristy.

**THE ANCHOR:** Junior High Youth group today at the Keifer home, from 2-4pm. Snacks, games, Bible Study. Contact Fr. Brian for info, [brian.barry@ctr-anglican.org](mailto:brian.barry@ctr-anglican.org).

**RACHEL WEeping:** A special service of healing for those affected by the loss of life in the womb. Tonight at 5:00 p.m. in the church.



Sermons are available online at:  
[ctrnorthshore.org/teachings](http://ctrnorthshore.org/teachings)