



Y GADWYN

(The Link)

News of the Toronto Welsh Community

Neges y Gweinidog from the Dewi Sant Church Pulpi

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To our gentle readers...

The Memorial Service for our late, much loved Wanda Sweet took up the whole worship time last Sunday so that the sermon never got preached! Imagine a Service in a Welsh Church without a sermon! Well, it happened this time! The Rev. however was SO disappointed and thought his sermon too important for anyone to miss! So we are publishing it here. Myfanwy."

Peace with God

Romans 5: 1-5

Sermon for May 29th, 2013

Trinity Sunday

If anything can be said of the human religious quest throughout the ages, it is the idea of humans wanting and needing to find "peace with God." In a universe that seems at best to be meaningless and hostile at worst, the search for the divine and then right relationship with that divine has assumed an overwhelming importance for women and men at all times and in all places. Every religion contains deep within it the promise of achieving peace with God, however that God might be named. And the reason for that is pretty easy to understand, too, because the divine often is experienced as being capricious, if not actually hostile or vengeful, even. What causes destructive earthquakes and floods? Who or what is responsible for disease and death? In a pre-scientific world, the answer is simple and straightforward: we are being punished by God or the gods as the case may be for having transgressed some divine law.

And most of us, I suspect have grown up with that stern and implacable old man up in the sky who meets out punishment and reward, depending on our behaviour. And so to ensure divine favour, we must to appease the deities with sacrifice and other forms of worship and make sure that we obey God's law.

And because, in the end, we are utterly unable to please God, God sends his Son to take upon himself the punishment that is rightfully ours. God's Son must be

sacrificed on the cross so that we can be forgiven, achieve peace with God and, finally, enter God's kingdom or whatever it may be called. That's what we learned, did we not?

But in our passage, Paul offers us wholly different message. We have been justified, Paul claims, by faith; we are set into right relationship with God by God's grace, not through our own efforts. And this has happen through "our Lord Jesus Christ": for Paul, it is all about God's faithfulness in Jesus of Nazareth, not about our faithfulness and most certainly not about our efforts to be religious or obedient or anything else. Our lives are changed under the lordship of Christ. The past is no more; now we live in grace and we look to a future in God's presence, our *hope of sharing the glory of God*, as Paul puts it. Peace is given to us as we live and die in the confidence that our lives and our world in the hands of One who loves the world and us in it, just as we are.

Yet why is it that, if justification – right relationship with God has already been accomplished in the life, death and continuing life of Jesus of Nazareth has already been accomplished, do we find peace so strangely absent from God's beloved creatures and from ourselves? Is it because we continue to confuse God's love with the absence of suffering? Paul is the supreme realist here: yes, he says, we are now surrounded by God's grace, we "stand" in such love that we confidently and exuberantly we "boast" in our hope of God's glory. And, yes, he continues, we boast also in the difficulties, even the sufferings we experience. Paul does not let us for even a moment imagine that our sufferings are a contrary witness to God's promises. Rather we survive them by growing in our hope, by appreciating our problems for the real but penultimate occurrences they are. Even our sufferings, rightly lived through, lead us again round to hope. Hope itself, says Paul, is founded on God's gift of love poured into us by the presence of God through the Spirit in and among us.

It is on the death and resurrection of Jesus that Paul bases this confidence in God's love poured out in our midst. It is Jesus' death and Jesus' new life that give us new life. In his death on the cross, God in Christ embraced and entered all human pain and suffering and most really present with us and to us. And in his new life, his resurrection life, his Easter life, God says that death – in all its forms and appearances – is not the end: death rather becomes the entryway, the door, into new life. For the believer, Paul says in the next chapter of his letter, baptism is the way we are caught up in the life of Jesus or by it, so that we now live his life. That is why we can boast in the God who loves, even as we boast in our sufferings and boast in our hope of experiences the real presence of God.

Such boasting is not the same as bragging. Rather, for Paul "boasting" is the opposite of shame or disappointment. Our hope will not shame us, or disappoint us, show us up to be mere fools. Instead, suffering or not, we live in peace with God, opening ourselves to and thus allowing ourselves to experience God's love, God's reaching out to us, God's extraordinary determination to have us live at peace with God. Amen.

Eilert.

Commentary.

My confession:

I don't like getting pushed around for being a Jew, and I don't think Christians like getting pushed around for being Christians. I think people who believe in God are sick and tired of getting pushed around, period. I have no idea where the concept came from, that America is an explicitly atheist country. I can't find it in the Constitution and I don't like it being shoved down my throat.

Or maybe I can put it another way: where did the idea come from that we should worship celebrities and we aren't allowed to worship God as we understand Him? I guess that's a sign that I'm getting old, too. But there are a lot of us who are wondering where these celebrities came from and where the America we knew went to.

In light of recent events... terrorists attack, school shootings, etc.. I think it started when Madeleine Murray O'Hare (she was murdered, her body found a few years ago) complained she didn't want prayer in our schools, and we said OK. Then someone said you better not read the Bible in school... The Bible says thou shalt not kill; thou shalt not steal, and love your neighbor as yourself. And we said OK.

*Then Dr. Benjamin Spock said we shouldn't spank our children when they misbehave, because their little personalities would be **warped and we might damage their self-esteem** (Dr. Spock's son committed suicide). We said an expert should know what he's talking about.. And we said okay..*

*Now we're asking ourselves why our children have no conscience, why they don't know right from wrong, and why it doesn't bother them to kill strangers, their classmates, and themselves. Probably, if we think about it long and hard enough, we can figure it out. I think it has a great deal to do with '**WE REAP WHAT WE SOW.**'*

Funny how simple it is for people to trash God and then wonder why the world's going to @#!% . Funny how we believe what the newspapers say, but question what the Bible says. Funny how you can send 'jokes' through e-mail and they spread like wildfire, but when you start sending messages regarding the Lord, people think twice about sharing. Funny how lewd, crude, vulgar and obscene articles pass freely through cyberspace, but public discussion of God is suppressed in the school and workplace.*

Are you laughing yet?

Funny how we can be more worried about what other people think of us than what God thinks of us. Pass it on if you think it has merit.

*My Best Regards, Honestly and respectfully, **Ben Stein***

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Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir

On July 6th 2013, 42 choristers of the Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir (TWMVC) along with their music director, accompanist and 18 spouses will arrive in Bangor at the beginning of a two week concert tour of Wales. It will be a homecoming for only 12 of us. The choir is indebted to its many members who devote much time and effort to sing at least 25 % of our repertoire in Welsh and to sing in the spirit with which we are accustomed to in Wales.

The tour starts in Criccieth where Deian and Annette Evans are looking forward to a reunion, Deian as a former chorister and Annette as a Welsh tutor of proper pronunciation. There our hosts are the Caernarfon Male Voice Choir. Bryn Roberts, founder of the TWMVC once sang with the Caernarfon

Even though from us she's gone
Yet her friendship stays forever
And the memories linger on.

Betty Cullingworth.

Memories of Wanda

We were quite a team - Wanda, Murray, Maria and I. It was a pleasure coming to the Church through the back door to hear the welcoming "Hullo Boss", from the office as I came up the stairs. Wanda considered the Dewi Sant community as her second family. No vacation was considered. She preferred to be here working, having a good 'natter' with all visitors and phone callers, going to the parking area for a sly smoke, and making sure that everything ran smoothly - as it invariably did under her orderly regimen.

Tuesdays were special for Wanda. Murray would come in to arrange the music for the coming Sunday. He and Wanda would put the world to rights, pick on me (gently), and then she and I would be treated to a musical master class on the organ. It is one of my endearing memories - seeing Wanda's face light up as Murray, weekly, would end the session with her favourite - 'Ave Maria'. These are some of the simple pleasures that will remain as priceless memories.

Wanda was a kind and gentle soul. She bore her many burdens with dignity and strength of character. She was a good friend to Annette and I, and was loyal and kind to the friends at this Church. I am glad to know and thankful that this kindness was reciprocated during the past two difficult years. Thank you, Wanda, for helping to make one section of my life's journey a pleasurable one. May God take you into loving arms and keep you safe. Rest in peace.

Deian

Dr. Murray Black also shared with the congregation thus,

Throughout her battle with cancer which grew into something profound how special Tuesdays would be and how special Wanda was.

I would also like to tell you of all the work and time Wanda spent making photo copies, folding and posting Y Gadwyn. We had so many laughs when Wanda would find a mistake in my typing. I was very ignorant about the ways of the computer. Several times I phoned panic stricken to tell her that I had lost Y Gadwyn after many hours of work! Bless her heart she would take me step by step until the offending document was found. Then came the laughs and jokes. Sleep peacefully my friend.

Myfanwy

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In loving memory of my sister Wanda

Wanda leaves behind her son, mother and father and her two brothers. She also (and most importantly) leaves behind a legacy of relationships with many wonderful people who were her friends and colleagues at Dewi Sant.

In all the time she has worked for and been involved with the church I never heard her voice anything but happy thoughts. Wanda's involvement with Dewi Sant represented the finest period in her life..

Wanda was in good company. I will always remember Wanda for all her kindnesses to me, growing up. Throughout adversity in her life, the many hardships she endured Wanda managed to hold onto her sense of humour and magnify her value of human relationships. Her warm nature, understanding and kindness drew people to her and lit the flame of compassion this world so desperately needs.

Throughout her battle with cancer there was a profound change. Through her hardship and suffering she seemed to brighten inside.. She rarely complained. "Where there is so much pain there is no use complaining, you might as well just laugh."

Life is like a winding river , A journey through the stream of time
An illusion we choose to believe, Until we again go home.

Souls we know are water, That flows into the rivers of our life

Once they touch us we are changed, Spirit and being for all time..

Like the many streams that meet the river, So are all our meetings and partings.
We join, water into one stream of life. And part ,new streams, with new names.

Though our journeys may take us to places far, Once the waters have combined, in friendship or not
They can never be truly undone. All rivers, All souls, all peoples, To join again in One sea of Creation.

Paul Wedel. Wanda's brother.

I am dedicating this edition of Y Gadwyn to Wanda for all her hard work of getting it published.

Er Parchus Gof In Memoriam

Alun Owen Hughes, 1942-2013

Although Alun was well known as a professor of Geography and historian at Brock University, to us, the Welsh Diaspora he was better known for his immense contribution to Wales, the Welsh and the Welsh language here in Canada, his adopted country, and the United States.

Born and raised in Bridgend, Alun attended Cowbridge Grammar School before continuing his studies at St John's College, Cambridge. He joined the Geography Department of Brock University in 1969 and was elected Chair of the department.

I first met Alun when I learned of his involvement with Cymdeithas Madog, the Institute for Welsh Studies in North America. Alun was one of the founding pioneers, and hundreds of North American Welsh learners owe him a huge debt of gratitude. He taught at courses from the late 1970s and was a Board Member for many years. Students who progress to the highest levels will be familiar with the "Chair" awarded for the best poem or literary work at Cymdeithas Madog's annual Eisteddfod. That Chair was presented to us by Cassie, Alun's mother, and it was carved by Alun's uncle - who also carved the Chair for the Llanrwst National Eisteddfod. That Chair is very special to Cymdeithas Madog.

I also remember Alun as a long-time Board member of the Ontario Gymanfa Ganu Association (OGGA).

He was a huge rugby fan and was co-founder of the Brock Rugby Club.

Alun was elected to Gorsedd Beirdd Ynys Prydain and wore the White Robe (its highest honour.)

During his career, Alun was presented with many honours. He was given the British Cartographic Society Design Award and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2013. He was chosen as Citizen of the Year in Thorold in 2005 and became the Honorary historian of the City of Thorold.

He will be sadly missed by his wife, Joyce, and his children Dafydd, Eleanor, Nia and Ffion.

Hefina Phillips.

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Thank You

Thank you for all the cards and flowers, plants etc. and the outpouring of care and love. I am so grateful to all of you, and overwhelmed by the kindness and good wishes.

.Elizabeth Stroud

Elizabeth is recovering very well after falling and breaking her hip. After only five weeks she is already back in church.

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Tom Jones

The family of Tom Jones wish to thank all members and friends of Dewi Sant for their telephone calls and beautiful sympathy cards received since the passing of Tom.

Thanks also to those who took part in his Memorial Service and Interment Service which was held at Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church Cemetery.

Thank you also to the ladies of Dewi Sant for the lovely refreshments we received at the "Tea" held after the Memorial Service. It was nice to be able to chat with long time friends over a Dewi Sant "Cup of Tea".

Our thanks also to those who have contributed to Dewi Sant's Memorial Fund and by now have received a personal "thank you" from our Minister, Rev. Eilert Frerichs. You all helped our family come through a very difficult time.

It is so hard for us to believe that Tom has gone and we as so many other families have now only memories of happier times. **With love from Betty, Sion Glyn, Cheryl, Megan, Nikki and Sydney.**

Correction to last month's "In Memoriam" for Tom Jones. He did **not** introduce The Eisteddfod to Dewi Sant. The Eisteddfod had been going on and off in Clinton Street for years, he only helped, shall we say, revive it and get it going again in the new Church. Thank you. **Betty Jones**

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O Ddidderdeb Of interest.

A Coronation Celebration

Music celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Coronation
Toronto, June 2nd – Kingston, June 9th – Cobourg, June 15th, 2013

I am producing another concert - this time to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Queen's Coronation. It will feature a mass choir from Toronto, Kingston and Cobourg and will be conducted by Judy Scott-Jacobs and Ian Juby. Claire Bresee will be on organ and piano, Mary Ito on bagpipes and Paul Storms will lead The Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines Association - Ontario in a musical tribute to a remarkable woman who has dedicated her life to public service.

I would be very grateful if you could let members of the St. David's Society know about this event. For further information, or to order tickets, people are welcome to call me at 416 282 0427 or contact me via e-mail at michaelkorn@sympatico.ca. **Michael Korn.**

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Gadwyn Donors

Jean Roberts, David Jones, Ruth Edward and Doreen Becket. Diolch yn fawr. Your contributions are appreciated and needed.

Sunday June 2nd - 7:00 p.m.

Welsh Service, Y Gwasanaeth Cymraeg with Rev. Cerwyn Davies

The list for **Sunday Tea** is now nonexistent. You all love the repast and the chats downstairs. You would miss it if there was no tea served. Two weeks ago a couple of ladies had to dash out to Loblaws to buy goodies etc and had to miss a chunk of the service--- which they had come for in the first place!! This is not very fair. The same people are constantly working in the kitchen. If you are nervous about doing this, please join up with someone who has experience. It is not a difficult task and gives pleasure to many. This is where people meet and talk to their friends (sometimes the ONLY time in a week.) So the "TEA" is a little more to some than just meaningless chit chat before getting on with their lives.

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