

33rd Sunday C, November 13, 2016

Malachi 3:19-20a

2 Thessalonians 3:7-12

Luke 21:5-19

Apocalypse: the unveiling; lifting the veil that hides the truth.

Revelation can be earth shaking.

In our lives, we have revelations that seem like an apocalypse - the world seems to stand still, the world seems to end.

On November 9th the U.S. experienced an apocalypse. A veil was lifted; truth was revealed, truth about our nation and maybe even truth about you.

The words of Jesus today: "All that you see here – the day will come when there will not be left a stone upon another stone that will not be thrown down." Jesus spoke of the great Temple where the God of the Hebrew people presided. This temple would be thrown down. This was a thing unthinkable, and yet it happened. The Hebrew nation was ended from 70AD to 1948. Do the math.

Today, we prepare for the presidency of Donald Trump. Some things have been thrown down. Some ideas have been overturned. Some hopes have been dashed, some hopes have been raised. Some fears have been realized, some fears have been neutralized. For some of us America can be great again and for some America's greatness has grown dim.

We live now in an apocalypse. An overturning of the earth. We live now with uncertainty and we live with hope.

The peculiar thing about the Kingdom of God is that it is and it is not. The peculiar thing about Jesus is that he is fully God and fully human. The peculiar thing about Mary is that she is virgin and mother. The peculiar thing about the bread and wine is that it becomes the flesh and blood, the real presence of Jesus which is also peculiar because Jesus died, yet lives.

The peculiar thing about America is the election of President Barack Hussein Obama and president elect- Donald Trump. And so beloved, in this very peculiar time of apocalypse, see that you are not deceived and see that you do not become a deceiver. Many will come in His name saying, "I am he" and "the time has come." Do not be deceived and do not become a deceiver.

How long did it take to build St. Bartholomew church? How long did it take to build St. Joan of Arc church? How long did it take to create these communities? 60 years? 80 years? One hundred years? The words of Jesus are no less revolutionary now than they were 2000 years ago: "All that you see here – there will not be left a stone upon another stone that will not be thrown down" and the stones are our very selves.

Dare we to lift the veil? Dare we come face to face with truth? with change? Dare we come face to face with a crucified God?

St. Paul tells the church of Thessalonica, do not act disorderly. Toil in drudgery, night and day so as not to burden one another. Those unwilling to work, should not eat. Keep busy and do not be busy minding the business of others, and eat your own food. The people of God are busy about Liturgy. This Greek word means the *action of the people* and that action is the worship of God. Liturgy is the “official service of God offered by the mystical body of Jesus Christ, the Church.”

You are the Church.

You are the mystical body of Christ and your work, your liturgy is to worship God.

In this peculiar time of apocalypse, worship God.

In this peculiar time between time -in the mean-time- praise God anyway.

Sing your song by the rivers of Babylon.

Dance your dance round the fiery furnace.

In Z nation while the living dead walk the streets of Camden and D.C., serve your neighbor like the Jesus who washes your feet and kisses your sores.

Be busy with love making. Worship God with your body husbands and wives.

The old order is passing away.

The veil will be lifted.

Fear not.

Kingdom of God comes.