

SERMON - THE 16TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY - 27 SEPTEMBER 2009
St. John's Anglican Church, Greensboro, North Carolina

Ephes. 3:14-19 (KJV)

For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, [15] Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, [16] That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; [17] That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, [18] May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; [19] And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

God's love is so great that we, both as individuals and collectively as the Church, cannot begin to comprehend the scope of it. We cannot, we are incapable of understanding God in His capacity of love.

As we say each Sunday, "The peace of God that passes all understanding," we acknowledge the fact that we cannot.

Along with this, we cannot know the future, what lies ahead for each one of us.

Last week we heard the words of our Lord how we should not be anxious for tomorrow but rather we should seek God's kingdom and all that we need for our lives will be provided.

Psalm 37:25 tells us, *I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.*

God, in his infinite love for each of us promises that He will take care of us.....

He will take care of us, IF... IF we will seek Him first..... IF we put Him first.

This is not preaching prosperity Gospel but it is acknowledging God's promise to each and all of us that He loves us and will provide for our needs.

We just have to have the faith to believe Him.

As we walk our journeys with God, we constantly come to bends in the road or places where we have to decide whether to take the left or the right path. We have to have the faith that God is beyond our horizon, is beyond the bend in the road and that He will direct us to the right direction.

Faith. Faith is the key.

The author of Hebrews tells us, *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

Faith is what gives us hope to keep going.

And love is what sustains us as we keep going.

Love is what will endure after faith and hope are gone, God's love.

Paul, in 1st Corinthians 13, tells us that. 1 Cor. 13:8 *Charity (love) never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.*

And 1 Cor. 13:13 *And now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.*

Saint Anselm prayed many years ago,

O Lord my God

Teach my heart this day where and how to see you

Where and how to find you

You have made me and remade me,

And you have bestowed on me

All the good things I possess,

And still I do not know you.

I have not yet done that for which I was made.

Teach me to seek you,

For I cannot seek you unless you teach me,

Or find you unless you show yourself to me.

Let me seek you in my desire,

Let me desire you in my seeking.

Let me find you by loving you,

Let me love you when I find you.

Amen.

