

First Sunday after Christmas 2014

Remember the phrase, “Sticks and Stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me”? When we were children it helped us rebuff something said about us that caused pain and lowered self-esteem.

However, Eric Idle, of Monty Python fame, once said, “Sticks and Stones may break my bones but words made me go to my room and cry all day.” Indeed words can cause great anguish and trouble.

Words have power to do good and to do harm. A comforting word can heal, a harsh word can punish. Vulgar words can cheapen and belittle. Loving words can strengthen and build -up.

Words also connect us. I can share my innermost thoughts, dreams and hope with you by my words. I can invite you into my life, my goals and my ways. You can tell me if you care, if you agree or disagree or will bother to respond.

We also speak of the power of the written word. The written word separates us from all other animals. Because we read and write we have the capacity to enter into the past, engage the present and contemplate the future. And when we use words spoken or written through prayer and by reading the Bible we converse with the Divine.

It is a great privilege, to enter into the very life and will of the Creator by holy and awesomely powerful words.

Even more wondrous is the realization that God spoke and through God’s Word and all things came into being.

The Gospel reading today, the Prologue to John’s Gospel, begin with a mirroring of the Book of Genesis---”In the Beginning..” Just as God spoke at creation and brought forth all things, so God spoke into the world some 2000 years ago. God’s Word became flesh in Mary and Jesus was born.

The Prologue dares put into words what cannot be visualized and must be accepted by faith. Love exists as the very heart of God, and this love graciously reaches out to all creation, us included. God’s Word becomes flesh wrapping us up in a stupendous plan. We can only catch glimpses the immensity of our salvation.

the Divine Word became the Living Word so we might hear God's Love in a way that we could see, touch and listen: A living, ever-present message bridging the huge communication gap between God's ways and our ways.

We live in a world that increasingly searches the skies to find evidence of its origins, its nature, its meaning amid the vast expanses of interstellar space---or ponders the human psyche, global interdependence, human connectedness and diversity.

We need to hear over and over again God's Word made Flesh, Jesus, because He is the source of understand the so many other voices that cry out.

God's Word is recorded in the Bible, of course, but we have even more. We have the Living, Risen One, who reveals Himself and The Father through the Holy Spirit. The Bible tells of the words and actions He gave in the past, but it is our relationship now that continues the astonishing Revelation.

Let each of us pledge ourselves in the days ahead to reverently, openly, and sincerely, listen to the Very Voice of God, Christ Jesus. In our worship we hear, listen and speak our response to the Word. By the sacraments He abides in the innermost place of our true self. In our prayers together an alone we connect with the eternal lover of our souls.

Tenderly, lovingly, eloquently, God communicates into our lives and hearts. May we listen for that still, perhaps small yet precious voice speaking comfort with words which never shall brake a bone. Amen..