

## Christ Our Hope Catholic Church

### *Faith in Laity Corner*



Monday, January 21, 2019

Reading Is. 62:1-6

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Times

## Gate Storming

As we return to ordinary church times, sending off the best of the past Season until next year; now we are running face to face with the realities of our country today. Ongoing deception in various forms, our government shut down, our open hypocrisy as we speak about the *'right to life'*, the American quality of life decreases, the best economy, yet poverty among children has increased; and we celebrate the life of an American who marched, and even died with the thoughts of equality on his mind. Yes, it is very important that people of *'good will NOT'* to remove themselves from the truth of what is happening to the *'land of the free.'*

The first reading from the prophet Isaiah is a *drum call* to remind us that we as a people will not be able to put on *blind shades* to shift from the truth.

*“For Zion’s sake I will not be silent,*

*for Jerusalem’s sake I will not keep still.” (Is. 62:1)*

As Catholic church people, we are deafeningly silent. Isaiah calls for the salvation of the nation, this is not the time for *'tongue in cheek'* approach, to what is happening around us. Our only reprieve will be to support earnest truth and integrity. To do less will remove us all from reaping the benefits of Isaiah’s pronouncement. There will be no exoneration for us.

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*“Vindication shines forth like the dawn  
and her salvation like a burning torch.” (Is. 62:2)*

There will be no hope for salvation, as our name will remain tarnished and glory will become evasive to us. Everything the prophet Isaiah preached against and wished for its removal will continue to pursue us

*“You” will “be called “Forsaken,”  
your land called “Desolate,” (Is. 62:4)*

We today in our nation, just as Jerusalem in that time of old, live in the midst of turmoil and confusion. People simple, and honest feel forsaken and desolate. Has God turned away from them? Yes, those who are in the grips of the federal *government shut-down*, who are depending on federal assistance to manage a part of their lives would feel abandoned. To those who live in truth, Isaiah’s words are to encourage and strengthen us. Those who are the initiators of this level of desperation upon others, will not receive the blessings of God. Rewards go to those who are steadfast in their search and upholding of the truth.

*For the LORD delights in you, (Is. 62:4)*

As a nation we have to come to terms for whom and what IS our stance? We cannot uphold rights of the unborn, but those who are alive, we deny education, clean water, affordable health and daycare and adequate pay!! Are we the same nation that deny people who seek a safe life; the ability to rise above poverty; safe homes and care for the elderly and frail; the same nation that we are expecting God to always bless ‘*this home of the brave*’? The prophet Isaiah states clearly that the only one way out in this for us all

*“I have stationed sentinels;  
By day and by night,  
they shall never be silent.*

*You who are to remind the LORD,*

*take no rest.” (Is. 62:6)*

As we lie awake, like *lookout guards*, ‘**sentinels**’ we are not to be silent. Here we are to storm the gates of heaven until God responds to our prayer, to help us feel welcomed and loved. He is waiting for our storming cries for righteousness, not for ourselves but our neighbors, Native Americans whose generations have been reduced to poverty, to African Americans who have are still fighting against the ever rising bar that forces them to work hard, die faster, and still struggle; for those who are turned away because of their name, their physical features, or from their country of origin. On this weekend of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s holiday, how much have we moved forward? How far still we have to go? Yes, our prayers have to continue to storm the heavenly gates until there is God’s vindication. Only then, we can honestly celebrate our holiday on Monday.



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Let us pray for our country, our children, our families who are in pain,  
who are worried, who are distressed during these time. May we seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit to  
discern our call.

Written by Brenda Chee Wah, *a lay parishioner of Christ Our Hope Catholic Church Lithonia, Georgia.* Available now on webpage/Facebook

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