

City Church Network - Tuesday Fellowship

April 7, 2020

Streams of the Christian Faith #2 - Incarnational Stream

facilitated by Wim Codington (cell: 423.505.6411; email: wimcodington@gmail.com)

Bible passages examined:

- Gospel of John (1:14 - Word became flesh and dwelt among us)
- Hebrews 10:32-11:3 (suffering, compassion, endurance, faith, visible from invisible)
- 2 Corinthians 3:12-18 and 4:7-18 (vision, transformation, glory, suffering)

Thoughts and ideas shared:

- Themes:
 - Importance of continuing rituals
 - *Ritual* (Wim's definition): Regular (routine, rhythmic, habitual) acts using physical elements and physical senses (sight, sound, smell, taste, touch) to enable spiritual understanding and vision
 - *Ritual* (Google's definition): A religious or solemn ceremony consisting of a series of actions performed according to a prescribed order.
 - *Sacrament* (Google's definition): A religious ceremony or ritual regarded as imparting divine grace
 - Seeing the mystery and the glory of the heavenly kingdom through the lenses offered in the earthly kingdom
 - Transformation, rhythm, repetition, habit, progressive change, seasons, discipline, suffering, compassion, faith
- Spiritual gifts highlighted
 - Worship, hospitality, service, music
- Historical background
 - See attached timeline (excerpt from Richard Foster's book)
 - God instituted a sacramental way of living through the Old Testament law; Jesus continued this way in his teaching, ministry, death, and resurrection
 - The Christian church has always maintained a sacramental emphasis; as traditions and denominations have divided over the centuries, certain traditions maintained greater sacramental emphasis than others
 - Seven sacraments of Roman Catholicism:
 - Initiation (baptism, confirmation, eucharist (Lord's Supper))
 - Healing (penance and anointing the sick)
 - Service (holy orders and matrimony)



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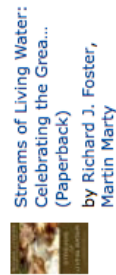
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Thoughts and ideas shared (continued):

- Orthodox church is less defined and more mysterious than the Roman Catholic church; does not limit the number of sacraments to seven
- The Protestant church traditions that emerged during the Protestant Reformation generally limited the number of sacraments to two (baptism and Lord's Supper)
- Some traditions (Anabaptists) include foot washing; others include the sign of the cross when praying
- Creeds (foundational statements of faith):
 - Apostle's Creed, Nicene Creed, many others
- Liturgical practices and guide books:
 - Book of Common Prayer (Anglican)
 - Lectionary - church calendar worship guide
 - Historical hymn traditions and practices
- Present-day manifestation in denominations and traditions
 - Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Reformed (Anglican, Presbyterian, Lutheran)
- Dangers
 - Focusing on the sign rather than the thing (or Person) signified
 - Focusing on the external rather than the internal
 - Focusing on the theological debate and disagreements (e.g. how many sacraments are there? How exactly is Christ present in the Lord's Supper?) rather than on knowing and experiencing Christ more deeply through ritual
- How we can practice each (choose 1 or 2 to incorporate into your personal or family life) - refer to pages 8 and 9 of the following document:
 - https://www.plcfantioch.org/dir/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/how_to_practice_each_of_the_streams_of_faith.pdf
- Other resources:
 - Book of Common Prayer: <https://www.bcponline.org>
 - Ancient hymns of the faith: <https://hymnary.org>
 - Christian creeds, old and new: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Christian_creeds





Streams of Living Water: Celebrating the Great... (Paperback) by Richard J. Foster, Martin Marty
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JESUS OF NAZARETH
 (c. 4 B.C.-c. A.D. 29)

- Flavia Domitilla (?-c. 100)
- Origen (c. 185-254)
- Monica (c. 331-c. 387)
- Aurelius Prudentius Clemens (348-c. 410)
- Oswald (c. 605-642)
- Hunna (?-c. 679)
- Caedmon (658-680)
- Vincent Madelgarius (c. 615-c. 687)
- Waldegrude (?-c. 688)
- John of Damascus (c. 675-749)
- Gottschalk (c. 803-869)
- Alfred the Great (849-899)
- Adelaide (?-999)
- Olga (c. 890-969)
- Vladimir the Prince (979-1015)
- Stephen of Hungary (c. 970-1138)

1000

- Isidore the Farmer (1070-1130)
- Dante Alighieri (1265-1321)
- Geoffrey Chaucer (c. 1340-1400)
- Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519)
- Nicolas Copernicus (1473-1543)
- Michelangelo (1475-1564)
- Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn (1606-1669)
- John Milton (1608-1674)
- Isaac Newton (1642-1727)
- Susanna Wesley (1669-1742)
- Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
- George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)
- Samuel Johnson (1709-1784)
- Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834)
- John Henry Newman (1801-1890)
- Fyodor Dostoyevsky (1821-1881)
- James Hudson Taylor (1832-1905)
- Pilgrim (19th century)
- T. S. Eliot (1888-1965)
- Dag Hammarskjöld (1905-1961)
- Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn (1918-)
- Flannery O'Connor (1925-1964)
- Eastern Orthodox Iconography (4th century to the present)
- Renaissance (14th-16th centuries)
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- Romantic Movement (18th-19th centuries)
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