



Peace & Joy

Romans 5: 1-5

2010 Lenten Meditations

Written by Parishioners of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral / Compiled by The Daughters of the Holy Cross

Masthead courtesy of Susan Craig

Friday, February 19 **John 17:9-19**

The scripture for today is John's eyewitness account of a prayer offered by Jesus for His disciples. It is a passionate prayer, and conjures up the image of a parent or dear friend praying for a loved one who might be lost in this world. Verses 9 & 10 remind us that we, as humans, have never been nor ever will be able to control the world in which we live – ranging from natural events to the actions of those around us. However, we do have power in the prayers we can offer to God for those involved in these events. These prayers can be for those we love, but there are times when we are called to pray for those who have caused us much pain (v. 12). Jesus was clearly focused on this reality, as He mentions the word "world" eight times in this passage!

John's primary goal in writing his gospel was to convey that God is Love, God is the Word, and God came to us as Jesus. John's desire was to prove this truth. In verse 17 he asks God to make "them pure and holy by teaching them words of truth." The truth is that prayer leads us away from ourselves, and by focusing on others we become more in tune with what God planned for His world – to be one corporate body. We can experience this hope and joy through communication with our Lord. We pray for the people of this world (verse 9); we pray for joy (verse 13); we pray for truth (verse 17). With these prayers, as exemplified by Jesus in this passage, we can go into this world and work and live for the truth of God.

Mary Boyd

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