

THE MISSION OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI ANGLICAN CHURCH IS TO PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION IN JESUS CHRIST THROUGH SERIOUS DISCIPLESHIP, SACRED WORSHIP AND SELFLESS SERVICE

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Is Your Church Christian or Christianish?

May 7, 2018 Tim Challies

Three little letters make a world of difference. Together i, s, and h distinguish Christian from Christianish and mark the difference between right and wrong, life and death, heaven and hell. There is nothing better for your spiritual wellbeing than to be in a Christian church. There is nothing worse for your spiritual wellbeing than to be in a Christianish church. Here are a few marks of each.

A *Christian* church teaches the Bible. It is committed to the inerrancy, sufficiency, clarity, and authority of the Word of God and therefore preaches it week by week with confidence and consistency. A *Christianish* church teaches about the Bible. It is committed to imparting life lessons and uses the scriptures as a starting point to teach people how to live lives of success and fulfillment.

A *Christian* church admits the deep depravity of human beings. It acknowledges that we are all deeply disordered so that not one of us has even the least righteousness to plead before God. A *Christianish* church proclaims the inherent goodness of humanity. It acknowledges that we aren't what we could and should be, but encourages us to believe that with enough effort we can get there.

A *Christian* church makes its core declaration the finished work of Christ. The good news of grace frees us from the impossible task of earning our own salvation and instead simply receives what Christ has already accomplished. A *Christianish* church has its core declaration the unfinished work of humanity. The bad news of works becomes the brutal and impossible path to impressing God with deeds that will catch his eye and win his favor.

A *Christian* church proclaims the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ. Believing that our sin has provoked the just wrath of God, it declares in awe that the Son of God willingly took our sin upon himself and absorbed the full fury of the Father's wrath. A *Christianish* church proclaims the wrathless love of God and the exemplary life of Jesus Christ, upholding Christ as the ultimate example of what a human being can and should be.

A *Christian* church preaches the gospel of justification by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. It calls people to repent of their sins and turn to Jesus Christ for forgiveness. A *Christianish* church preaches a gospel of social justice or personal prosperity. It calls people to right social wrongs or to claim financial enrichment, to repent only of insufficient action or insufficient faith.

A *Christian* church gathers each week to worship the God of the Bible according to the Bible. Knowing their desperate need for divine wisdom, they read the Bible, preach the Bible, pray the Bible, sing the Bible, and fellowship around the Bible. A *Christianish* church gathers each week for empowerment or entertainment. Their services are shaped more by pop culture or personal preference than by Holy Scripture.

A *Christian* church preaches the exclusivity of Jesus Christ. It echoes scripture in saying Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life and that there is no other way to be reconciled to the Father but through him. A *Christianish* church insists Jesus Christ may be *a* way but not *the* way, and proclaims instead that all roads lead ultimately to the same destination.

A *Christian* church proclaims the existence of heaven and hell. It takes hold of the authority of the Bible to plead with people to turn to Christ and be saved from destruction. A *Christianish* church affirms an afterlife but denies the possibility of eternal punishment for those who have chosen to reject the free offer of the gospel.

There is nothing in all the world as precious as a truly Christian church. There is nothing in all the world as dangerous as one that is merely Christianish. Choose your church well.

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Greetings everyone,

First off I would like to wish the fathers a happy Father's Day. May your day be joyous and blessed. As I was thinking of what to write, I noticed how things are instantaneous. The world is sprinting for the next big thing. Wanting everything yesterday. From food to sex, the world wants instant gratification, we even sprint with our emotions. We have things like Rocket mortgage to news 24/7 bombarding us more information than we can truly digest. We even want our worship service to be a sprint so we can get to the next thing planned that day.

Our worship of the Lord is not a sprint, it is a marathon as well as our life. If you are sprinting through life and worship, you will get drained of energy quickly. Think about it, have you ever heard of a 26 mile sprint? No! It is not sustainable. Neither is worship or life on the run. We need to slow down, so we can enjoy the time we get to spend with our Lord and Savior, as well as our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Like a marathon takes training and practice, our worship and life requires us to slow down and train as if we are running a marathon. Our Lord did not sprint to the cross, he walked to it, teaching and presenting Himself as an example along the way. He showed us how to run this marathon of life and worship. I'm sure you remember the saying slow and steady wins the race? Again take the example of our Lord, if it was to be a sprint, He would have come to us fully grown, but instead, he chose to be born of the flesh, out of the womb of Mary. He took the time to experience what we go through by growing up in our world. He didn't sprint to the finish and then move on to the next thing. In fact He is still working in the world. To Him our salvation is all there is, there is no next big thing! In conclusion life is fast enough without trying to sprint through it to the next big thing. We need to take our time and run a marathon not a sprint. By doing so we will be able to enjoy life and worship more fully. Allowing us to savor every moment in worship, in turn allowing the joyful presence of the Lord to be felt even stronger.

May the Peace of the Lord be always with You!

Deacon Jeff Stugelmeyer



Child Care is Available each Sunday from 9am.

Please see an Usher for location.



Come to Movie Night at St Francis Church on Friday, June 1st at 7:30pm.



Helen Ripken will have a make up picture day on June 24th before and after church in the courtyard for our 2018 Pictorial Directory.

Bring your family for this great photo opportunity!!

The Messenger

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'20 Mark Kemalyan, Agnes Olmsted

Sacred Worship

HEALING
SERVICE



St Francis Church offers a healing service on the First Friday of every month at 12noon. June 1st will be the service in June.

Holy Communion on the First Saturday of each month at 9:30am

An opportunity to gather and praise God before you "Go and Make Disciples" in the different food ministries St Francis offers in our community.



	<u>Sundays</u>
9:30am	St Francis of Assisi
	<u>1st Friday of the Month</u>
12noon	Healing Service
	<u>1st Saturday of the Month</u>
9:30am	Holy Eucharist

Taizé and the Languages of Prayer

By Gigi Kemalyan

God is praised and worshiped in all kinds of languages around the globe. When Brother Robert, who was born in Switzerland, first founded the Taizé community in France, he attempted to conduct the services in French. This proved difficult for the people who were coming to worship from all over the world. The results were unsatisfactory, so eventually Latin became the primary Taizé chant language. This is why many of the songs we sing at our monthly prayer service are in Latin.

While by no means a universal language, Latin is "dead" in the sense that no native speakers survive. Therefore, it is a neutral language because it's a mostly foreign element for everyone. From a musical standpoint, Latin has clear consonants and beautiful open vowels that allow the notes of the melody to soar. At the same time, the Latin texts all come from Scripture or the Liturgy and are therefore imbued with deep meaning.

A Taizé prayer service is not limited to Latin, however. Often, the songs are heterophonic, meaning several languages can be sung at the same time. Some Taizé chants combine Latin and Hebrew (like the first one Brother Robert wrote, "Jubilate Deo, Alleluia"). Others list multiple languages in the verses, and people in the assembly are free to choose whichever words the Spirit leads them to sing. God understands all of it! The words and melodies are just the vehicle to guide our hearts inward and upward. The songs are the wings that lift our prayers, and the Holy Spirit is the wind that guides them to heaven. There they are brought before the Lord by His angels, as illustrated in the book of Revelation by this beautiful description of worship at God's throne:

When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation."

(Revelation 5:8-9 NASB)

Did you catch that part about the golden bowls of incense? Those are our prayers! And with the angels and the saints who have gone before us we can lift our hearts and our voices, sending our prayers—in any language—straight to God's throne room. He is worthy of all our praise and adoration!

This is what a Taizé service is all about: adoring the Lord, worshiping Him in prayer, resting in sacred silence. We invite you to let your heart and soul be blessed by praying in song, in a service that is contemplative yet communal from beginning to end. The music will remain with you throughout the week, uniting prayer and daily life. You will begin to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17) with a song in your heart.

Our next Taizé prayer service is on Wednesday, June 6th at 7:00 p.m. Come. Listen. Pray. Sing. God will meet you in the songs and in the silence.

Serious Discipleship

Arts & Crafts Mini-Retreat for Adults

Is on break during the summer.



Do You Play Bridge?

Marvin Lykins and Valerie Nolan are looking for bridge partners. If we can find a couple more players, we can have a bridge day at St Francis. If you're interested, please let the church office know!

The ACTS class is still in progress at 8:30am on Sundays. It is not too late to join. Lots of good discussions!! See Deacon Jeff or Cyndi Telander for more info.



Women's Bible Study

We will begin a
new study on August 29th
at 9:45am

Our Diocese of San Joaquin Website:
<http://www.dioceseofsanjoaquin.net/>

Diocesan Newsletter:
<http://www.dioceseofsanjoaquin.net/san-joaquin-anglican.html>

Daily opportunities to read/hear the Word:



<http://legereme.com/office>

<http://www.missionstclare.com/english/>

<https://first5.org/>



Daughters: June 9th @10am

Choir: Upcoming Rehearsals: June 3rd

Coffee Hour Hosts: See Cat Rhodes

Altar Guild: June Potluck Lunch

Taizé: June 6th @ 7pm

Bishop's Committee Meeting: June 24th

Other Ministry Opportunities

Acolyte

Lector

Prayer Team

Collection Counter

Hospitality

Usher

Flowers

Homebound Ministry

Senior Ministry

Serving on the 1st Sat of the Month



Don't forget to sign the cards on the back table for our homebound and sick. They are so appreciative to hear from their friends at St Francis Church.

Selfless Service

Spring clean your closet!

Will you please search your closet for women's warm weather items for the homeless? The first Saturday in June, St. Francis will be distributing toiletries and clothing to the homeless women of Stockton. We need women's light weight sweaters, jackets, shirts, shorts, pants, dresses and skirts.

We also need gently used undergarments and sleepwear. Children's clothing is also needed.

Please bring your donations to church and give them to Cat Vaughn. Thank you!

Homeless Women's Ministry

1st Saturday of Each Month



June

- 4th John - Phillip Giambastiani
- 18th George - Diane Stauffer
- 28th Don - Sandra Bradbury



June

- 2nd Mr & Mrs Quirino Foronda
- 4th Mr & Mrs Ted Yumoto
- 9th Mr & Mrs Paul Sigwart
- 27th Mr & Mrs Bill Thomas



June

- 3rd Carolyn Turpin
Quirino Foronda
- 5th Warren Osgood
- 11th Ellen Arcala
- 12th Lisa Yumoto
- 19th Barbara Smart
- 20th Ken Moeckel
- 22nd Bill Thomas
- 25th Jim Thompson
- 29th Cat Vaughn
- 30th Daniel Nailles
Kristian Petersen



May Altar Flower Donations

Denis Ceballos in memory of Erich Aulwurm

Mike & Fresca Finney in memory of Fred & Margaret Finney

Isabel Johnson in thanksgiving for her birthday and in memory of Darvin

Helen Arcala in memory of her daughter, Vanessa and her mom, Graciana

Mike & Fresca Finney in memory of Godofredo & Isabel Pellore

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.stocktonanglican.org

June 2018						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Healing Mass 12noon	2 Holy Eucharist 9:30am
3 Pentecost II 9:30 Holy Eucharist	4	5	6 Taizé 7pm	7	8	9 Daughters 10am
10 Pentecost III 9:30 Holy Eucharist	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Pentecost IV 9:30 Holy Eucharist	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Pentecost V 9:30 Holy Eucharist BC Meeting	25	26	27	28	29	30



June 3rd

Deuteronomy 5:6-21
Psalm 81:1-27
2 Corinthians 4:1-12
Mark 2:23-28

June 10th

Genesis 3:1-21
Psalm 130
2 Corinthians 4:13-18
Mark 3:20-35

June 17th

Ezekiel 31:1-14
Psalm 92
2 Corinthians 5:1-10
Mark 4:26-34

June 24th

Job 38:1-18
Psalm 107:1-32
2 Corinthians 5:14-21
Mark 4:35—5:20



Mary Norman

May her soul,
and the souls of
all the faithful
departed,
through the
mercy of God,
rest in peace

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We have a lovely area for prayers when you are in the Church of St Francis.

It is in the back corner equipped with candles, a bible and prayers. A place to spend some quiet time with our Lord.



I am the Resurrection and the Life

By Agnes Olmsted

In John 11, Jesus said to [Martha], "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And

whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die."

Jesus' beloved friend Lazarus had died. Lazarus' sisters, Mary and Martha, were distraught. Jesus had not been with them and waited to visit until Lazarus was dead and had been buried for several days. Jesus did not prevent Lazarus' death, nor intervene immediately. Jesus tarried before coming to see Lazarus so that He could show His power over death. Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead and awakened him to new life.

Imagine finishing this earthly life with a new life from Jesus. That is what we have when we choose to accept Jesus' gift of redemption and life. Jesus the Christ carried all our sin to the cross with Him. Jesus has reconciled humanity and God through His blood sacrifice for us. His saving grace gives us life.

Though Lent is a time of sober reflection in preparation for Holy Week, this "I AM" statement of Jesus is great cause for hope and enthusiasm. Waiting for Easter to sing its joyous Resurrection proclamations can become nearly unbearable. Considering what it truly means that

those who believe in Christ and his redeeming gift of salvation will never die, some of us can't help shout the 'Alleluia' in our hearts.

One day, God will give us a new body that will never die, but will live forever with Him. Anticipating his own death, Billy Graham said that he will be more alive than ever, and now he is. C.S. Lewis' writings ponder that this life is a dream or shadow and we are transparent ghosts, and Heaven is reality itself. These images make this earthly life seem dull by comparison.

The Apostle John writes, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." With this wonderful assurance we can say with Martha, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, Who is to come into the world."



**St Francis Church
Lending Library**

Take a look at our books in the Fellowship Hall. You may purchase or borrow and return the books on the bookshelves.

It is all on the honor system. Lots of good resources.





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