

Truth Ultimately Is Not about Ideas, Philosophies or Principles. Truth is a Person. His Name Is Jesus Christ.

"As we culminate the church year today with the celebration of the Reign of Christ over all things," the Rev. Dr. Brook Thelander said in his sermon Sunday, "our Gospel lesson provides us with an ironic twist as it takes us to Pilate's interrogation of Christ in the last hours before his death.

"Pilate's question to Jesus is, 'Are you a king?'

"Jesus responds, 'I was born for that purpose, and I came to bring truth to the world. And all who love the truth recognize that what I say is true.'

"And the next question, the \$64,000 question (not in our printed lesson), comes from a perplexed Pilate: 'What is truth?'

"Perhaps Pilate is perplexed because he envisions truth as a concept, as a proposition," Pastor Thelander continued. "Something to be debated and argued, something to be treated at arm's length, something bandied about in the village marketplace."

So it continues today: "If we were to pay attention to much of what we see on television or read in scholarly journals or the pages of our favorite magazine, we would conclude that we want a truth that we remake in our own image. We want truth that is weak, impotent and relative—truth that is as individual as each person,

truth which ultimately does not hold us accountable to anyone but ourselves. We want truth that is expressed in the old maxim, 'everyone doing what is right in his or her own eyes.' . . ."

"What escapes Pilate at this moment is that the answer to his question lies not in the form of 'what', but rather 'who'. For in this moment he encounters truth as a *Person*. Truth has come to Pilate concretely in the person of Jesus Christ. The 'image' of the invisible God now stands face to face with Pilate. Truth has moved from the realm of the abstract to the realm of flesh and blood. Truth has a face. Truth has a name. That name is Jesus. . . ."

"We moderns love to pursue truth. Schedule a forum, a conference, a meeting to discuss truth, and we'll show up, but we want very little to do with *Jesus*.

"Today is a day when the Church reminds itself that truth ultimately is not about ideas, philosophies or principles. Truth is not found in some sterile, antiseptic notion. On this day we are reminded that truth . . . is a *Person*. . . . (T)o live your life in the spirit of Jesus' life and teachings is to live in truth.

"And for thousands of years now, Christians have called Jesus *King*. Based on the testimony of Scripture and the testimony of Jesus himself, they have acknowledged his Lordship. (p. 2→)



"Sir Galahad", painted 1888 by George Frederick Watts. The Epistle lesson this Sunday—the first Sunday of Advent—will advise us to prepare for the coming of Christ by ceasing wrong-doing, loving one another, and clothing ourselves with the armor of right living, or, as the Collect will say, "the armor of light". Photo courtesy of <http://commons.wikimedia.org>.

Editor: Box 972, Boise, ID 83701. 208-336-3951, harbingermail@aol.com

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Brook Thelander, epworthrector@msn.com

On the Web: www.epworthchapelonthegreen.org

Sundays 10:00 a.m.: Word & Table service (**12/2: First Sunday of Advent**)

11:30 a.m.: Refreshments, conversation

11:45 a.m.: Post-service discussion

6:00 p.m.: (First Sundays only) Evensong, tea & refreshments

Tuesdays and Thursdays during Advent, 6:30 p.m.: Evening Prayers

For the poor: Christmas needs: Hams, ready-to-serve rolls, butter or margarine, frozen pies, cake mixes, breakfast/brunch foods, eggs, muffins, pancake mix, sausage.

Readings, 12/2, 10 a.m.: Is. 2:1-5; Ps. 122; Rom. 13:8-14; Luke 21:25-31. **12/2, 6 p.m.:** Ps. 111; Amos 1:1-5; 1 Thess. 5:1-11. **12/9:** Is. 11:1-10; Ps. 72; Rom. 15:4-13; Mt. 3:1-12.

Prayer Emphases: Lebanon; General Association of Regular Baptists; Riverside Church, New York City, and the Rev. Dr. Thomas Stiers, Interim Minister; Academy of Homiletics; parishioners on Weaver Circle.

(Sermon, cont'd.) And for thousands of years, they have been praying, 'Thy kingdom come'. . . The poet W. H. Vanstone said it like this: 'Drained is love in making full; bound in setting others free; poor in making many rich; weak in giving power to be. Therefore, he who Thee reveals hangs O Father, on that Tree helpless; and the nails and thorns tell of what Thy love must be. Thou art God; no monarch Thou thron'd in easy state to reign; Thou art God, Whose arms of love, aching, spent, the world sustains.' . . . This . . . King . . . pledges . . . that he will come again, and things on earth will be as they are in heaven."