

On the mind of the Rev. Adrian Dannhauser

“Preaching in a Time of White Supremacy.” This was the title of a panel event hosted by a local Episcopal seminary a few years ago. I wish I had gone. For in this moment, when we all remain shocked and saddened over the Buffalo shooting and the toxic ideology behind it, I feel at a loss for words. We’ve been here before, and it’s utterly devastating to be here again. So maybe a good place to start is with the words of our Presiding Bishop:

“As baptized followers of Jesus of Nazareth, we are called to uphold and protect the dignity of every human child of God, and to actively uproot the white supremacy and racism deep in the heart of our shared life.” (Pastoral statement on mass shooting in Buffalo from Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, May 16, 2022).

The Bishop’s statement recognizes that the shooter wasn’t acting alone, not really. Yes, he’s the only one who pulled the trigger and the only one to be prosecuted. But any sort of identity-based violence, whether racially motivated or otherwise, doesn’t spring up out of nowhere. It starts with “othering” – not accepting someone else’s full humanity and equality – which is something our country was built upon.

The othering that persists through history, particularly in the form of white supremacy, seems exacerbated in this digital age – with hate speech, at worst, and careless rhetoric, at best, overflowing on social media so that ideas like replacement theory come to legitimate extremists.

And yet, the Bishop’s words ring true for us all. We must all uproot the sin of supremacy from our hearts and from our midst. Not only white supremacy, but all forms of supremacy, as made evident once again by the Laguna Woods shooting. We must work really hard not to “other.”

Fortunately for us, the flipside of othering is belonging, which is what the church is all about. We belong together. Belong before you believe. You belong here.

In Christ, we can find true belonging, for true belonging is being simultaneously fully known and fully loved. And then, when we can take the focus off our own need for belonging, and create space for others to belong, we realize that to belong to God is to belong to God’s people.

It turns out I have more words on this matter than I initially thought. That’s what putting pen to paper, or fingertips to keyboard, will do. Of all these words, “belong” sums it up. May our church be a community of belonging, where we uphold, cherish and promote the dignity of every human being.

Adrian+

COME, HOLY SPIRIT!

We continue our Christian formation series on the Holy Spirit, the most mysterious and seemingly elusive person of the Trinity. Join us in the Parish House or on Zoom for the following sessions held on **Thursdays from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.**

- **May 26** – Charism: The Gifts of the Spirit
- **June 2** – Holiness: Life in the Spirit

At the start of each session, a clergy member will share about their own understanding and personal experience of the Holy Spirit to kick off our time together. All are welcome.

SHOP TO SUPPORT “EARNING HANDS”

Earning Hands is a program of Women Development Services, a ministry of the Diocese of Raiwind, Church of Pakistan. Through this program, women who have been exploited in the sex trade develop skills that enable them to earn an income, raise their families out of poverty, and break the cycle of generational prostitution.

Items created by Pakistani women in the Earning Hands sewing and embroidery workshop – including clothing, scarves, handbags and jewelry – will be on display and available for purchase in the Parish House on **Tuesday, May 31, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.**, and again on **Sunday, June 5, during Coffee Hour.**

NEWCOMERS RECEPTION

Those who have recently begun worshipping at Incarnation are invited to a reception in the Rev. Adrian Dannhauser’s apartment, located in the Parish House, on **Friday, June 3, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.** RSVP by emailing Adrian at adannhauser@churchoftheincarnation.org. Please note that in light of Covid, we use the term “recent” loosely! If you started coming to Incarnation at any time during the pandemic, you are more than welcome.

COMMISSIONING CELEBRATION

All are invited to a special service for the Rev. Adrian Dannhauser on **Friday, June 10, at 6:30 p.m.:** “Celebration of New Ministry with Commissioning as Priest in Charge.” Followed by a reception in the Assembly Hall. Please RSVP through Paperless Post (an invitation was delivered to all on our email distribution list on May 6) or by contacting Thomas Reefer, Parish Administrator, at treefer@churchoftheincarnation.org. We hope you can join the celebration!

EVERY WEEK AT INCARNATION

Sunday Bible Study: Bible Study is held in the Parish House (and via Zoom) on Sundays from 10:00 to 10:30 a.m. We generally follow the Yale Bible Study program, which offers course materials on select books of the Bible, deepened by insights from Yale Divinity School professors.

Sunday School for Children: During the 11:00 a.m. service, children ages 3 to 10 depart the service with their teachers for Sunday School in the Parish House. (All teachers have been vaccinated.) They return before the end of worship. See our website, churchoftheincarnation.org, for more information on Children and Family Ministries.

Wednesday Holy Eucharist: Join us each Wednesday at 12:15 p.m. for this Rite I spoken service of Holy Eucharist, which includes a brief homily and organ music.

Thursday Candlelight Communion: Join us each Thursday at 6:15 p.m. for Candlelight Communion, a service of Holy Eucharist that incorporates chant and silence as well as elements of contemporary worship. This service is informal and contemplative, with music led by a Cantor and a brief reflection by one of the clergy. You can also stream this service at youtube.com/churchoftheincarnation.

Daily Office: Services of Morning Prayer, Noonday Prayer and Compline are held via Zoom. To view the weekly schedule, go to churchoftheincarnation.org/worship.

To receive access information for offerings held via Zoom, join our email distribution list by filling out the yellow Connect Card found in your pew or signing up through our website.