

Friday GRIND

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June 28 2020

**Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 8)**



Lectionary Readings:

Genesis 22:1-14 with Psalm 13 or **(Ron Schrote)**

Jeremiah 28:5-9 with Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18

Romans 6:12-23 (Pat Kelly)

Matthew 10:40-42

PoP [Prayer of People]

Welcome

Genesis 22 is one of my favorite readings in all of Scripture. Please pay particular attention to it as Ron reads it this weekend and if you can't listen in, read it aloud to yourself. Take your son, your ONLY one, the ONE you love. Just last week we heard about Hagar and her son Ishmael, fathered by Abraham- - In The Binding of Isaac known as Akedah we are exposed to our need to both obey and rebel; to be bound as well as free.

Lech-lecha, go forth is a call for separation, for change, of leaving the past behind. I'd love to hear what the Spirit speaks to you in this reading. How old did you figure Isaac to be? Chutzpah: was it when God said Take please your son?

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On June 19, we commemorated Juneteenth, the date in 1865 when enslaved African Americans in Galveston, Texas, were told that they were free. Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation occurred January 1, 1863. However, Texas ignored the proclamation, as did the ten other Confederate states. "This all indicates a fundamental misunderstanding of the significance of Juneteenth. The fact that slaveholders extracted thirty additional months of uncompensated labor from people who had been bought, sold, and worked to exhaustion, like livestock, throughout their lives is cause for mourning, not celebration. In honoring Juneteenth, we should recognize a moral at the heart of that day in Galveston and in the entirety of American life: there is a vast chasm between the concept of freedom inscribed on paper and the reality of freedom in our lives. In that regard, Juneteenth exists as a counterpoint to the Fourth of July; the latter heralds the arrival of American ideals, the former stresses just how hard it has been to live up to them." (Thank you Jelani Cobb)

I am embarrassed to say, I did not know this history.

It was never taught in all my years of schooling. And that is indefensible. And I need to learn. And take to heart the words of civil rights leader Fannie Lou Hamer, who maintained that "nobody is free until everybody is free."

I'm with Richard Rohr here, "So, let's use the word emancipation to describe a deeper, bigger, and scarier level of freedom: inner, outer, personal, economic, structural, and spiritual. Surely this is the task of our entire lifetime."

Quote for your week...

Be soft. Do not let the world make you hard.

Do not let pain make you hate. Do not let the bitterness steal your sweetness. Take pride that even though the rest of the world may disagree, you still believe it to be a beautiful place. -Anonymous

The fire has its flame and praises God
The wind blows the flame and praises God.

In the voice we hear the word
which praises God. And the word,
when heard, praises God.

So all of creation is
a song of praises to God.

-Hildegard of Bingen

We wear masks to protect OTHERS, which seems an awful lot like something Jesus would do. We keep a distance, but we yearn to say some hello's and simply see each other as we model kindness, compassion, and consideration.

July 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY

In the lectionary we bow only to two secular holidays. One is Thanksgiving, and the other is Independence Day. Unlike any other parts of the secular calendar, both are by their very nature religious, if not specifically Christian. The giving of thanks becomes all people and enriches every experience. We give thanks unto the Lord by whatever name we individually may call that higher authority.

Likewise, freedom enriches us. Although it may not be used by all of us to practice the Christian faith, it does create full play for the checks and balances of human variety, for the oppositions and inconsistencies that make our society. It takes most of us no more than a week or a fortnight outside our own borders to discover just how central the free play of human values is to our individual, as well as our civil, well-being. No one can define freedom for oneself until one has defined one's god(s), one's own purposes, and the compromises one is willing to make to serve them both.



Good Old Days 2019 pic



The author Paulo Coelho tells the story of a man watching a butterfly struggling to emerge from its cocoon. The man decides to help the butterfly by cutting open the cocoon to free

it. What he fails to realize is that the effort required to break free from the cocoon is nature's way of strengthening the butterfly's wings. In trying to accelerate the process, the man destroys the butterfly's ability to fly.

Similarly, we can clip people's wings through our own impatience. It takes time for people to strengthen and grow into their potential. We must allow patience and time.

When you feel patience waning, ask yourself: Is this worth my health? Thank you for being patient as we shelter in place, keep a distance and wear a mask.