

REview and PREview
Fri 1/11/2018 at 5:15 AM

Good Friday morning. I woke up at 3.30 am, almost wide awake, and remembered I had not sent my weekly REview/PREview out on Wednesday! Well, Friday is as good as any day, I suspect.

REview – We posted Sunday's sermon in written format to this website. As I've said before, I'm always delighted to read your comments, questions, suggestions in response to your experience in worship. Happy to have coffee with you whenever convenient.

PREview - Sunday's readings are Psalm 29, Acts 8:14-17, and Luke 3:15-17, 21-22. I hope you'll find time to read these before Sunday.

We will focus on the Luke passage and the fact that Jesus was baptized in the same murky water along with everybody else. As is our custom, we will remember our own baptism, "and be thankful."

In the meantime, ponder these words from Rev. David Lose, a former intern of mine at Culver Academies, who now is my teacher!

"Yes, baptism is about forgiveness. But it's also about relationship, about being named and claimed as children of God. And I think we often tend to think of forgiveness as a mechanism rather than a result, by-product or, most importantly, gift. That is, we can easily slip into thinking that God forgives us in order that we can be named, claimed, and called God's children. But I don't think that's accurate at all. God forgives us not to make us God's children but because we already are God's children. Forgiveness is a result of God's love for us, not a condition of that love. Forgiveness, to say it one more way, is the gift of a loving God and by-product of that love, not a mechanism by which to achieve it."

Hope to see you on Sunday!

Blessings,
Pastor Tom