

St. John's Good News



On the Pursuit of Justice and Love

By The Rev. John Beach

There is a wonderful German word, *zeitgeist*, which is defined in Merriam-Webster dictionary as, “the defining spirit or mood of a particular period of history as shown by the ideas and beliefs of the time”. Its literal translation is, “The spirit of the age”. As the 1960’s pop group, Buffalo Springfield, sang,

*There’s something happening here,
But what it is ain’t exactly clear
There’s a man with a gun over there,
Telling me I got to beware*

*What a field day for the heat.
A thousand people in the street.
Singing songs and carrying signs
Mostly saying “hooray for our side”.*

*There’s battle lines being drawn
Nobody’s right if everybody’s wrong
Young people speaking their minds
Getting so much resistance from behind*

*Paranoia strikes deep
Into your life it will creep
It starts when you’re always afraid
Step out of line, the man comes and take you away.*

The entrenched racism in this country is certainly a contributing factor to our *zeitgeist*. The rapidly changing demographic of our country is another factor. Our desire to have clearly defined heroes and villains is yet another. There is a human tendency to develop a narrative in which we are right, and we seek news sources which reinforces this narrative. This is an example of our tendency to seek our confirmation bias. It renders us increasingly unwilling to engage in conversation with those with whom we disagree. We can clearly see the speck in our brother’s eye, but do not seem to notice the log in our own.

May 2021

**Sunday at 10am,
in-person and online
at Zoom:**

**All are welcome to
join us for worship ~
please contact the office
if you wish to attend
church in person, as
seating is currently
limited to 35. Zoom
options will be shared
by email.**

Phone: 781-233-1242

Twitter:
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<u>Inside this issue</u>	<u>Page</u>
From Rev. John	1-3
ECDS & Lobster roll sale updates, Nelson Schol. Fund, Garden Club, etc.	3
Word Search	4

As Christians, we are called upon to consider the words written by St. Paul to Timothy in that we are reminded *God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, and love, and of sound mind* (2 Timothy 1:7). It is for this reason that we are called upon to join forces with all those who work for justice and peace. This includes supporting police officers, our court systems, and all others who proclaim that Black Lives (and Chinese lives) matter.

Among the things revealed in the conviction of Derek Chauvin is that there is a desire on behalf of our justice system to (in the words of the baptismal liturgy) *respect the dignity of every human being*. George Floyd was cruelly and needlessly murdered. This was the judgement of the jury.

What remains unresolved is the answer to the question, “How can we support our police in carrying out their honorable and necessary work of keeping the peace?” We must ask the question, “How can we create communities which are *not* governed by a spirit of fear?” This requires that we engage the courageous enterprise of talking to those vulnerable people who have been taught their entire life that this country is a dangerous place.

I am grateful for a recent initiative on behalf of the Saugus clergy to engage in conversation with local police about how we might work more creatively with those who are most vulnerable in our community. It is my hope that we might seek to find something of that love St. Paul mentioned, which casts out all fear.

Peace,

John+

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My grandfather after whom I was named died 40 years ago. In cleaning out his house after his death, my mother came across his Bible which she gave to me. I have moved this with all of my other books from Montreal to Florida to Toronto to Geneva to Saugus. Since I have several other Bibles, I must confess I have never opened it.

I did so for the first time a few weeks ago, and a slip of paper fell out. It contained a poem written by his father, David N. Beach who had hoped to attend his 30th reunion at Yale University in June of 1902. He was unable to attend because his wife was dying of tuberculosis. He composed a poem which was read at the gathering. His wife read the poem and requested that a copy be made for my grandfather who was 15 years old. I was deeply moved by the text and have transcribed it verbatim below.

*And now out into the great world we go.
May short-lived ease and what men think of us,
And all untruth, whatever garb it wears,
And all our lower selves, be trampled 'neath
Our feet; and, choosing naught but the best things,
May life be one long agonizing, these
To win; and, battling thus, and helping all
About us as we can, When we shall fall
On sleep, may Earth be better for our lives!
May we have praise of God!"*

Class poem, David N. Beach, Yale 1872
Copied for John T. Beach at his mother's request June 25th, 1902
Father's 30th class reunion June 24th, 1902
She Died June 30, 1902

The Rev. John Beach

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Every Child Deserves to Smile



We continue to collect non-perishable food items and everyday needs (paper plates, napkins, plastic utensils, baggies, etc.). If you would like to make a donation or have any questions, please contact Jeanne Seaboyer at 781*662*4342 / jmseaboyer(at)gmail(dot)com.

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Lobster Roll Sale

Over 220 lobster rolls were sold and more than \$1,400 raised! Sincere thanks to T. J. Martin, Nancy & Steve White, Laura Geary, Rev. Beach, Bill & Janet Pothier, and everyone else who pitched in with purchasing, set-up, ordering, deliveries and Other tasks that made our April 23rd sale a success!

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The Nelson Scholarship Fund

The Rev. Roger E. Nelson Scholarship has been renamed in honor of Roger and in memory of Dotsie Nelson. Any active, contributing member of St. John's Church who is graduating from high school and plans to continue his/her education is eligible to apply for this scholarship. Applications are available by contacting Rose Holt at Mamarosie119(at)aol(dot)com or 781*727*6879. Completed applications must be returned no later than June 1st. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Rose.

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Garden Club & Yard Sale

On Wednesday, May 19th, the Saugus Garden Club will meet and offer a container garden demonstration at 1:00pm. The group will gather in the Memorial Garden. And please note, there will not be a yard sale this year. ~ Donna Manoogian

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We wish all moms a very blessed Mother's Day!



WORD SEARCH

Can you find these places named in the Bible?

A W H Q H X W J H H B K Y Y J F I T
 P S X U E T B Z H D D G I P A I R T
 U J A I T R X F E L T B O S K C K C
 S U G V P Z B A B Y L O N S I Y O U
 M M E M P H I S R X Y Q M S H N C R
 X H S E B Z L L O O Z I O N H E A F
 D Q D H R Z Y U N F C A U U D P N I
 C U J G A E R I T R E A R S D E A Z
 F R E R B L I K D B E Y V A M T A S
 Z X R Q J E E X R M U W P F R R N Y
 Y E I O X Z I M A O F C A F P A D W
 M D C Z N X R R H Y L Z X W M T T Q
 N I H R J P A E U K H E O I N O B X
 G F O K T I L R Y T T A B A L U L A
 H I S L C C O R I N T H J A F F A M
 G A Z A N L H M I A Z R H E N R Q Y
 M E S O P O T A M I A J P S G O Y B
 G N E M Y M G D S A A V T J S C N V

Aramea ~ Ararat ~ Babylon ~ Beirut ~ Canaan ~ Corinth ~ Eritrea
 Gaza ~ Goshen ~ Hebron ~ Jaffa ~ Jericho ~ Lebanon ~ Memphis
 Mesopotamia ~ Petra ~ Shalem ~ Sinai ~ Tabal ~ Zion

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Officers: The Rev. John T. Beach, Priest-in-Charge ~ Daniel Casey, Sr. Warden ~ William St. Clair, Jr. Warden ~ Phil Littlehale, Treasurer ~ Paul Felci, Asst. Treasurer ~ Brenda Caggiano, Clerk of the Vestry

Vestry: Rose Holt (2022) ~ Duana LeMay (2024) ~ Donna Manoogian (2024) ~ Samantha Martin (2023) ~ Kristina Palazzo (2023) ~ Sandy St. Clair (2022) ~ Kenneth Webber (2023)