



On 28th Avenue between Lake and 31st Streets Minneapolis, MN 55406 • 612-729-8358 • office@htlcmpls.org • www.htlcmpls.org
WORSHIP SERVICES: 8:45 and 11:00 am • CHURCH SCHOOL: 9:45 am • Jay Carlson, Pastor

A TALE OF MODERN FAITH

In preparation for Dr. Marcus Borg's visit to Holy Trinity in November, I spent some of the weekend reading his latest book, *Putting Away Childish Things: A Tale of Modern Faith*. Unlike Borg's other books, this latest work is fiction. It is a novel, largely set on college and seminary campuses and showing the difficulties that one often encounters living a life of faith in the modern world.

In the scene from the book reprinted below, a college student named Erin visits her new religious studies professor, Kate. Listening in on their conversation is a good introduction to Marcus Borg's way of thinking about being Christian in the world today.

Erin stopped. She bit her lip and then said, "Can I ask you another question, kind of a personal one?" "Sure," Kate said.

"Well, I have the impression that your view of the Bible is pretty liberal, or whatever word you would want to use. And that you don't think Christianity is the only true religion. And I also have the impression that you take Christianity very seriously. I mean, I know you can't talk about that in class, but I've heard that you go to church and teach classes there and that you start your days with prayer—there's a lot of stuff out there on the student grapevine."

Erin tucked her hair behind her ear and looked up at Kate. "So what I want to ask is, is it hard to be Christian and to think like you do?"

Kate wondered what the most helpful response would be. Then she said, "No, it's not hard. In fact, it's made it easier for me to be wholeheartedly Christian. You know, there are some unnecessary intellectual stumbling blocks to being Christian—like needing to believe that the Bible is inerrant and that we are to interpret it literally and factually, or that really big miracles happened in biblical times, or that the earth is only ten thousand years old. The way I see things means that those obstacles are gone, and then the real meaning of Christianity emerges."

"And what's the real meaning?" Erin asked.

Kate shrugged. "It's pretty simple: it's about centering more and more deeply in God. And for Christians, that means centering in God as revealed decisively in Jesus. Of course, it's not simple to do—for most of us it takes a long time to become deeply centered in God. But I think that's what being Christian is about. It's not very much about believing things that are hard to believe."

Erin was silent and then said, "What do you mean by centering in God? I like the way it sounds, but I'm not sure what it means."

Kate thought for a moment. "Well, our relationship with God is somewhat like a human relationship. It grows and deepens to the extent that we pay attention to it—by taking time for it, spending time in it, attending to it. It's about longing and prayer and worship—that's how we center in God. To center in God and not in all the other things that we could center in. Actually, that's the meaning of faith—faith isn't really about believing in God, but centering in God. You know what St. Augustine said? 'Our hearts are restless until they find their home in God.' We find our home in God by centering in God."

Our symposium in November will be a time for learning, discussing, and perhaps disagreeing on matters of faith. But finally, I hope it will be an opportunity for us to center ourselves even more deeply in God. Please take some time to read the enclosed brochure and consider registering soon. If you would like to learn more about Marcus Borg, several of his books are in the church library, including his latest novel.

— Jay M. Carlson, Pastor

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Almighty God urges the faithful, again and again, to "listen up!"—to heed the word from above. So it is today as we join the assembly to hear the word of God, the words of life.



LESSONS

Amos 8:1-12
Psalm 52
Colossians 1:15-28
Luke 10:38-42

SUNDAY ADULT FORUM

9:55 am — In the library

July 18

"Issues of Church and State—Part III"
Javen Swanson, Intern Pastor

The third forum will explore the question of whether clergy should be authorized to authenticate civil marriages. In other countries, only government officials may sign marriage licenses; in the U.S., clergy are recognized as agents of the state for the purpose of solemnizing marriages. Should this be so?

July 25

"Issues of Church and State—Part IV"

The fourth forum will inquire if the government's decision to grant tax-exempt status to the church protect the free exercise of religion as guaranteed by the first amendment to the Constitution or does it lead to a compromise of its prophetic witness?

WAYS TO SERVE

Call the church office at 612-729-8358
to volunteer or for more information.

*Volunteers are needed to bake communion bread. Please call the church office if you can help either occasionally or regularly. Recipe will be provided.

*Help is needed to serve meals at the Trinity Apartments

*We also need volunteers to help with funerals. Please call if you can bake a cake or help serve at funeral luncheons.

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEB SITE

The Holy Trinity web site has been redesigned—go to htlcmpls.org and see the new look.

CONGREGATIONAL READING PROJECT

“Lament for a Son,” by Nicholas Wolterstorff is our next congregational reading book. Written to honor a 25 year-old-son who died tragically in a mountain-climbing accident, the author recounts his struggle to deal both with God and with the soul-searching pain of grief. Copies of the book are available for purchase in the Community Room for \$8.50.

PHOTO MAKEUP DAY

The photography sessions for our pictorial directory have been completed. If you were not able to schedule a time to have your photo taken, there will be a makeup photo session on Thursday, July 22, 2:00-9:20 pm, at Zion Lutheran Church, 128 W. 33rd Street, Minneapolis. Call Deanna at 612-824-1017 to make an appointment.

SUMMER MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Register by calling the church office at 612-729-8358

- July 20-22, our Summer Handbell Workshop will take place from 10 AM to 12:30 PM for youth in grades 6-12, who have music-reading skills gained from playing another instrument. Come learn the technique and language of ringing. *Swing, shake, damp, pluck, and martellato* your way to fun! Space is limited to 11 ringers, so register early.
- August 2-5, we predict a *100% Chance of Rain* – a jazz musical about Noah and the flood . It will help children and youth highlight the construction of our new rain garden in a unique way. We'll rehearse each day from 9:30 AM to noon and present our performance on Thurs, Aug 5th, at 7 PM. Open to singers/actors in grades 1-8. Scripts will be available at the end of July for those who are interested in a major singing or speaking role.

SYMPOSIUM ON FAITH AND SOCIETY

Dr. Marcus Borg will visit Holy Trinity the weekend of November 12-14, leading the inaugural *Johnson Symposium on Faith and Society*. See the enclosed brochure for more information and for a registration form. Fill out and return the form to the church office soon in order to receive a discount and to ensure a space for Dr. Borg's presentations.

DIALOG BREAKFAST-BUILDING SCHOOLS IN AFGHANISTAN

Tuesday, July 27, 8-9:30 am. Santwana Dasgupta, Director of the Partnership for the Education of Children of Afghanistan (P.E.C.A.), has been living in Kabul for the past two years and is coming to share how building schools is making a difference for human rights, women's issues and our own national security.

A light breakfast will be served, and registration is \$5. Please call 612-729-8358 or email office@htlcmpls.org to register.

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PARISH EVENTS July 18- July 24

Sunday	8:45 am	Worship Service of Holy Communion
	9:55 am	Adult Forum
	11:00 am	Worship Service of Holy Communion
	12:00 pm	Executive Committee Meeting
	2:00 pm	Swahili worship service
Monday	6:00 pm	Council Potluck & Meeting @ Kathy Hollander's
Tuesday	10:00-12:30 pm	Handbell Workshop
Wednesday	10:00 am	Lectionary Text Study
	10:00-12:30 pm	Handbell Workshop
Thursday	9:00-11:00 am	Opportunity sale pricing
	10:00-12:30 pm	Handbell Workshop

World Hunger-in honor of *Jane Englund's* 90th Birthday and in memory of *David Lindell* by Janice Lehman, and in memory of *Myrtle E. Nelson* by Gloria Warner

Rain Garden- by Karen Batdorf and Christine Brand

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS July 18, 2010

8:45 AM		11:00 AM
Jay Carlson	Preacher	Jay Carlson
David Broberg	Celebrant	Paul Read
Signe Rudrud	Crucifer	Wayne Vetter
Fiona Carson, Gunnar Rudrud	Acolytes	Meagan Fortier
Peter Johnson	Cantor	Peter Johnson
Andrea Hansen	Liturgist	Lynda Nordholm
Rick Liedholm, Mary Young	Communion	John and Carol Kelly
David/Sally Kohlstedt, Bob Peschiutta	Ushers	Alan/Megan Libra, Mark Hiner, Jeremy Spratt
Karrie Cable-Spratt, Shelly Grimes	Altar Guild	Carol Lane, Pat Lundquist
Laura Fowell	Nursery	Joy Nelson, Laura Fowell
Needed!	Coffee Servers	Bill Capman/Laura Simms
Dennis Nordholm, Chris Engen	Counters	John Kelly, Anna Cunningham
	Closer	Stella Townsend

RAIN GARDEN FACT

Did you know... rain gardens are not just a functional solution, they also create different opportunities for incorporating new planting, wildlife habitat and play areas?

Financial Report	July 11	Year to Date
Budget Requirements	11,076.92	310,153.85
Budget Receipts	14,461.77	290,054.91
World Hunger	50.00	1,199.02
Haiti Relief	--	6,569.70
Capital Improvements	--	40.00
African Pastors Endowment	--	375.00
Central America Fund	--	60.00
Youth Opportunity Fund	--	952.00
Rain Garden	60.00	27,935.37
<i>Total donations to Rain Garden</i>		<i>37,480.46</i>

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