

Rev. George Arceneaux

Pentecost 3

6/2/24

Today is a day to remember, there is good everywhere and in everyone. It's a day where we remember that God sees the light of Christ in everything that ever was, is, or will be EVEN when that light is covered up with hurt or ugliness, that light is always there, and so , to start getting into that I need a favor. I need you dear parishioners of St. Christopher's, to raise your hand and let me know...

What is a terrible movie that you love? Like what is a movie that critics or other people you know think is a real stinker?

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Ok, my answer to that is this movie called Deadly Eyes, it's a Canadian tax shelter horror movie from 1982, this is a movie that had zero budget, zero money to make it, there is zero story too. The premise of the movie is about a city being attacked by larger than average rats and I love everything about it BECAUSE it is a terrible movie, I mean, the way they bring the super rats to life is that they dressed a bunch of dachshunds in rat costumes and in the movie, THEY ARE CLEARLY DACHSUNDS. Despite its being an objectively terrible movie, it absolutely rules.

Whatever movie you said you liked, there's something in it that others may not see, but which you do and which gives you something good.

I like to think that's what God feels about everything and everyone. On its face, the story today is just about Jesus helping this poor man with a withered hand when he's not supposed to. These pharisees, these guys that know what the Bible says you can and can't do, they say this man with the withered hand is not so important that Jesus can get away with doing the work of helping him out, because the bible says that we're supposed to not do any kind of work on the Sabbath.

These pharisees, these big wigs don't see the good in this man who is hurting beyond their anger at Jesus and the breaking of the law. But Jesus does.

I get so frustrated with the pharisees, I get so angry, I start thinking about all the people I get frustrated with, I get angry with Christians who aren't like me, I get angry at politicians who don't think like I do or people who follow those folks, I am so prone to think that they're just like the pharisees because they're the bad guys.

Of course, the fact is when I get this kind of worked up and start thinking this way... I tend to wonder if I'm more like these pharisees than anybody else. And I don't mean in the way that I'm somehow bad in the eyes of God. Because that's not what Jesus says here today about the pharisees.

What we read from Jesus is that he's angry with the pharisees. And then he is sad. Because he sees the light in their hearts the same as he sees it in everybody else. And I think I can make Jesus just as angry and sad as in this story as the pharisees. I think any of us can if we begin to forget that everyone, even those who we most disagree with, are just as loved by God.

What God does which we can so easily forget or fail to do is to see us ALL. To see us at St. Christopher's, to see those we do things we are so opposed to, God sees the good that is in each of us. And lest I fail to mention him and continue my own being a lot like the pharisees, God sees those like the man with the withered hand whom the pharisees would have overlooked. Last week I was so grateful as Peter and Marty mentioned the people of Ukraine, Russia, Israel, and Palestine and the migrants who have come to our country AND I am so happy that Mark also prayed, not to mention the kids at wiggle worship, for the people in our own neighborhood who we're also called to see and to know.

Let's help each other to remember see people when we can't because we're clouded by anger and ignorance. Straight up, help me! I'm having a baby in 4 days, I need all the help I can get just as he's gonna need all the help he can get to see that everyone is worthy of love, so that maybe he remembers when life is hard that he's worthy of love too.

We are to strive for goodness and right actions, make no mistake. But we are also to remember that no matter how bad we or anybody else messes up, or how bad someone may be hurt, that light that God sees in everyone never goes out. Its always there. Let's try to see it too. Amen.