

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12

We are Christians who worship in the Anglican tradition. But what is Christianity all about? People have a lot of different opinions. Some think it is all about serving the needy and fighting for justice. Some think it is all about beliefs and practices. Some think it is a social or community service organization. Some think Christianity is all about a bunch of goody goodies shaking their fingers at every one else.

The church has tried, over and over again, to state what the Christian religion is all about. In the Book of Common Prayer you will find three attempts to put the Christian faith into words: The Apostles Creed, The Nicene Creed and The Creed of St Athanasius.

Beliefs and practices, service and justice, and community, are all important, but that's not what it's really all about. It's all about Jesus. It's about who He is and what He did, and the relationship we have with Him. It really is all about Jesus!

But who, or what, exactly is Jesus? Our reading from Hebrews for today, which is a creed, or statement of faith of sorts, sheds some light on who Jesus is. It focuses on Jesus: who He is, what He did, and how we relate to Him. Let's have a look at what Hebrews says about Jesus.

The first thing Hebrews says about Jesus is that He is God's Son, and the one through whom God spoke to the human race.

People have often wondered how to have a relationship with God. God is great and powerful and all understanding, but we are not. To span the gulf between us, God took the initiative. In

Old Testament times, God spoke through prophets. In the New Testament, God sent His Son, to speak to us.

Imagine for a moment about having to relay information to a third party? It can be slow and tedious. Sometimes the third party misrepresents or misunderstands the message. That's how it was with the prophets. But now, God speaks to us directly, through His Son! That is very significant.

Now, imagine calling the Prime Minister on your cell phone right now, do you think he would answer? But, we have already talked to God, and He has talked to us without use a cell phone.

God talks to us through the presence of Jesus Christ living in our hearts. So what's it all about? It's all about Jesus!

The second thing Hebrews tells us about Jesus, is that Jesus is the creator; "Through whom also He created the world". We usually think of God the Father as the creator. Even the creeds say things like: "I believe in God the Father Almighty, creator of Heaven and Earth". But the Bible tells us that Jesus was there at creation. And it was through Him that all things were made.

Think about what this means? We know that original works are more valuable than copies. With modern photographic and printing capabilities, we can all have famous paintings hanging in our living rooms. But no one is going to try to steal them. In fact, in most cases, the frame is more valuable than the print.

But go to the museums where the originals are, and we will find laser beams, armed guards and security cameras.

We are an original work. Now, the family might say you are a carbon copy of one of our relatives. Don't believe it, we are all an original work of the Master. Just look around the church, they are an original work of Master Jesus too. So each one of us is priceless, because we are an original work of the Master.

Hebrews also says that Jesus was "appointed the heir of all

things”. Not only did He create it, He is in charge of it. So Jesus is the creator, and the master, of all the world. So what’s it all about? It’s all about Jesus!

The next thing that Hebrews tells us is that Jesus is “the reflection of God’s Glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being”. People have often wondered what God looks like.

Artists have often imagined God as an old man. God has been described as light and power. God has been depicted in many different ways. But there is more behind this endeavour than trying to decide if God has a beard or gray hair. It is all about trying to understand and know God from a human vantage point.

How can a mere person know the entire universe? If that seems beyond our capacity, then how could we ever hope to know the creator of that universe? But Jesus is the very imprint of God in human form. What is God’s character and attitude and demeanor? Look at Jesus. If we really want to know God, look at Jesus Christ. So what’s it all about? It’s all about Jesus!

Hebrews also tells us that Jesus is above the angels. When He died for our sins and rose again, He took a place higher than the highest angel. Angels are messengers from God, that is what the word “angel” means in Greek: messenger.

But Jesus is greater than even that. And what a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear. His amazing grace saved a wretch like us. Christianity teaches us that a greater power than angels has reached out to each of us. “Jesus loves me this I know for the Bible tells me so”. So what’s it all about? It’s all about Jesus!

After today, if someone asks us who Jesus is, hopefully now we can tell them. We can say that He is the one through whom God speaks to the human race. We can say that He is the one through whom all things were created. We can say that He is the very

image of God in the flesh. We can even say that He is higher than the angels.

But, there has to be a “but”, there always is, but can we say, “Jesus is **MY** Lord and Saviour”? That’s the important part.

Can we say that we know God through Jesus, and that He is master of our life?

Christianity is a lot of things. It is ritual and practice, service and justice, the Bible and community. But what it really comes down to is our relationship with Jesus Christ! So what’s it all about? It’s all about Jesus! Remember that! That’s what the Holy Communion, the Holy Eucharist is all about. When He instituted the Eucharist, on that first Maundy Thursday in the upper room, Jesus said “Do this in remembrance of me”. So, for the final time, what’s it all about? It is all about Jesus!

AMEN.