

Images from the Lenten Journey

Sunday, February 18, 2018

St. Paul's Cathedral, Kamloops BC

The Very Rev. Ken Gray

JUST BACK FROM A SHORT TRIP TO MEXICO

- Where I of course took lots of pictures
- It's time to organize my images into galleries on my webpages
- So far, its' **images from the resort** which accommodated us
- Images from **a trip to San Sebastian**, a historic silver mining community
- Images from **the city of Puerto Vallarta**, of buildings, people, abstractions, flowers

I CAN LIKEWISE CREATE IMAGE GALLERIES FROM TODAY'S GOSPEL

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was **baptized by John in the Jordan**. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, **the Beloved**; with you I am well pleased."

IMAGES OF WATER, RUPTURED HEAVEN, DESCENDING DOVE

And the Spirit immediately **drove him out into the wilderness**. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

LOCAL WILDERNESS, SATAN, WILD BEASTS, ANGELS

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to **Galilee, proclaiming the good news** of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the **kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.**"

GALILEE (SOUTH OF VERNON), TIME, REPENT/CHANGE IN DIRECTION

The organizing point (1:15a): "the kingdom of God has come near."

In Mark "God's kingdom" is mentioned fourteen times:

1. its coming – the kingdom of God comes with power . . .
2. its peculiarities – the kingdom of **God is like** . . .
3. to whom it belongs – the kingdom of God **belongs to** (children) . . .
4. and impediments to its entry – the kingdom of God is **hard for some** (wealthy) . . .

Lent is a great time to consider anew, **what does the Kingdom or God look like, feel like, sound like . . .**

God's kingdom - **not a place but a power**

God's kingdom - God's dynamic potency to put right all that is wrong in this world

God's kingdom – give us a **new way to look at time itself**

– Chronos/Kairos

Lent invites us to **turn our minds God-ward** in a socio-personal, effective and disciplined way

Lent helps us **re-discover God's mercy anew** – the Ash Wednesday prayer

Remember, you are dust and to dust you shall return.

(BTW for those who seek it, and missed Ash Wednesday, I offer ashes today at the end of the communion rail)

PRAYER

I invite you therefore, in the name of the Lord, to observe a holy Lent, by self-examination, penitence, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, and by reading and meditating on the word of God.

God bless us all as we enter this Holy season together