



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

THIS SUNDAY May 14 & BEYOND

Jesus the Cornerstone



UNDER CONSTRUCTION



In this Sunday's passage from his first letter (1 Peter 2:1-10), Peter references several psalms that use the imagery of stones, the most familiar being, "The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner" (Psalm 118:22). Jesus quotes this verse directly in the gospels, and it's alluded to frequently in the New Testament and the writings of the early Church Father. But why? What makes this such an important idea?

First of all, there's a lot of biblical freight packed into that one verse: the worship of pilgrims coming to Jerusalem, Messianic expectations, and way more that I can't fit into this reflection. Still, you wouldn't have needed to be a rabbi or even a Jew to appreciate what was being said, because the image of the cornerstone *itself* would have been universal. You see, if you were building a structure with rocks and mortar, the cornerstone would be the reference point for maintaining its form and all its lines. If you got the cornerstone wrong the whole building would be unsound from the start, and so highly-trained stone masons would read the plans and then scour the quarry for the stone with just the right size and shape.

Jesus as the cornerstone was a staple of early Church preaching because even without the Old Testament context, there's a powerful practical application. Just like any structure, the only way our lives can be stable is if all our various cares, concerns, obligations, and desires have a solid reference point where they can all come together. The trouble is that exacting as we might be in rejecting potential cornerstones, unlike the stone masons, we don't have the full set of building plans. As a result, the unexpected changes of life often leave us trying to reinforce something that's crumbling, and can even reveal that we've been building the wrong thing entirely!

Since we're limited by our own imaginations and resources, the less influence we give God in the construction of our lives, the more they tend to look like everyone else's. But when we make Jesus the reference point, He will bring all the lines together to form our lives into the uniquely magnificent structure that God intends each of us to be. He has the blueprints, so He knows which stones are good to build with and where to place them. If He seems more ambitious, building bigger and with more costly and precious materials, it's because He's already funded the project.

If you're a believer, ask Jesus to show you whether you've made Him the cornerstone or not. Or are there walls or structures whose lines don't quite line up? If you're not a believer, does your life have the stability you want? Is it becoming the unrepeatable masterpiece that you believe it should be? Think about what you're building with and the plans you're following, and consider whether the "stone that was rejected by the builders" might be the missing piece that will hold it all together.

Father McQueen

CALENDAR

SUNDAY: 8:00a Low Mass (Church)
 9:30a Christian Formation (Fireside Room)
 10:30a Solemn Mass (Church)
 2:00p Grossmont Symphony Orchestra & Master Chorale
 All Baroque Concert titled *If It Ain't Baroque*
 —The entrance to the church is on 6th Avenue—

Note: Child care is provided at the 8:00a, 10:30a Mass, Coffee Hour & Fellowship follow the Mass in the Parish Hall.

MONDAY 7:00p (AA) Doctors' Group (Fireside Room)

TUESDAY: Noon Mass (St. Mary's Chapel)

THURSDAY 6:30p Evening Prayer (St. Mary's Chapel)

FRIDAY: 9:00a Morning Prayer (St. Mary's Chapel)
 9:30a Mass (St. Mary's Chapel)

AA Meetings

8:00p Ladies' Group (Fireside Room)
8:15p Men's Group (Parish Hall)



Featured Artists



Audra Nagby, Soprano
Timothy Simpson, Tenor
Michael Skol, Baritone



Michael Gaby, Oboe
Ondrey Lewit, Violin

IF IT AIN'T BAROQUE
VIVALDI HANDEL
J. S. BACH

SUNDAY, MAY 14
2:00 PM

ADMISSION: \$10 GENERAL, \$5 STUDENT
ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH