

Liturgy Notes for the week of October 1, 2017

Liturgy: The Work of the People

Friends and strangers, passionate believers, hopeful skeptics: All are welcome as full participants or thoughtful observers.

If you are visiting, you'll find a card in the pew pocket explaining our liturgy. Fill out the back side and drop it in the basket to keep in touch.

This Week's Reading

I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.

The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.

But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice.

John 9:14-16

NOTES

See You Throughout the Week

- October 15–Kickball Picnic, after liturgy
- October 28–SheLeads Summit: A one-day conference about how women and men can lead the Church together.

Community Group Discussion Guide

Community Groups are “Families on Mission.”

Learn more at AustinMustardSeed.org/CommunityGroups.

Use this guide to facilitate discussion in your group and in personal reflection.

Check-in

Always begin by checking in. This is a time for everyone in the group to speak briefly. You may choose to always use the basic check-in question “what was one high point and one low point from your past week?” or come up with an “icebreaker” of your own.

Sermon Synopsis // What is Belief?

The purpose of the Catechesis series is to discuss how our shared life is birthed out of what the Church has always believed.

Christianity is known as a set of beliefs. The “faithful” get so particular about their beliefs that churches form and divide around variations in these beliefs. We understand, though, that beliefs matter not because believing all the right things makes us right with God, or define who is in and out. Instead, we recognize that what we believe shapes how we live and love.

Discussion Questions

1. In John 9 and 10, we see how Jesus wants to set people free from toxic beliefs. What are some toxic beliefs you have encountered? Why were they toxic?
2. Is belief easy for you or difficult for you? What is something (either you've learned in church or elsewhere) you find easy to believe? What is something you find difficult to believe?
3. Chris defined “belief” as “an idea we think is right, explains our experience of reality and shapes our actions.” Do you agree or disagree with this definition? Why or why not?
A “Christian Belief” is...
 - ...Consistent with the person and teaching of Jesus
 - ...Aligned with the story of Scripture
 - ...Corresponds with Known and Experienced Reality
 - ...An Embodied belief.
 - ...A Shared belief.
4. Discuss the five components of a “Christian Belief.” Take a moment to discuss them. You may want to note if you agree, disagree, or just don't think it matters.
5. What is one thing that Jesus taught, which, if I truly believed it, would have a tangible effect on your life?