

**Trinity Church Wall Street 11:15am Holy Eucharist – Trinity Sunday  
The Kristin Kaulbach Miles Transcript**

**The Gift of Joy, Prayer, and Baptism"**

On a day of Holy Baptisms here at Trinity Church, Mother Kristin preached about a recent conversation with today's baptismal candidate's parents. She invited them to share where they experience the "sense of the divine" most and use the answers to write a prayer for their children in the future.

Their responses were inspiring: when they are grateful and when they are overwhelmed; when they consider the grandness of nature and when they feel the earth's soil in their hands; when they witness random acts of kindness and when they hear their children laugh. "They want their beautiful children to have the wherewithal to persevere, to try something new; to be willing to engage with a hurting world or person...They want them to have what Jesus is offering: a path, a purpose, a way of being."

The readings are Acts 9: 1-6; Psalm 30; Revelation 5: 11-14; and John 21: 1-14

**Sermon Transcript:**

In the name of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Come and have breakfast. What a fitting invitation on a day of baptism. Jesus tells the disciples in our gospel and us, come and have breakfast, that is be nourished. Baptism is about God's nourishment within us. When I was about five, I asked my mom what happens to us when we die? This is in the early '70s, so back then I was sitting in the front seat looking at her intently, we were driving a maroon Dotson and I don't think she was expecting this question, I think she was focused on getting to the store or wherever so I said mum what happens to us when we die? And there was this long pause and she said, "We become beings." Well I didn't know the word beings, I only knew the word beans and I was perplexed that when we died, we became beings. And at the time I had a Mr Potato Head which is this plastic shaped thing, potato look at the need for the eyes and the hair and the nose and the little feet so I was picturing heaven with all these Mr. Potato Head beans walking around and I thought it was weird and I was a little disappointed. Children have a lot of thoughts and a lot of questions and they notice a lot and they wonder. And as we get older, we don't often do this as much, wonder aloud. And yesterday, I got to spend time with you our baptismal parents and the parents at the 09:15 service where we also baptize babies, and we sat in a circle and took a moment to wonder about when we sent the divine, when we have that mystery of being part of something bigger than ourselves. And we reflected on then and our personal experience we most sense a presence of God, what are the circumstances? We went through an inventory, when I feel, when I see, when I hear, when we feel, for one person is when they are grateful, for another, when they are overwhelmed that they most sense God. When we see, for one person it's the complexity of mountains that are grand and not made by human hands. And for another, it's the random acts of kindness they see on the streets of New York City.

When we hear the laughter of children or a piece of music that is utterly absorbing, when we touch the Earth's soil or our children's hair, when we taste chocolate, warm bread, when we read nonfiction stories that fill us with all that these things actually happened, when we are in a certain place, the beach, or several mentioned just coming and Trinity churchyard when they just needed a place to walk and know that they were held in something bigger, when we are doing blank and there was this idea of watching children who are just so delighted about being alive, they're so in the moment. So these parents called forth these things that are all within them, these experiences that are a part of who they are which co-exist while they face hard times in their lives, which co-exist that is so hard and awful and difficult to witness and know in our globe. These parents also wrote a prayer for their child, they know that like the disciples in today's gospel story, there'll be times in the lives of their children when they do not recognize God in their midst. When they have had a long night and are discouraged when they have caught no fish. They want their children to have the wherewithal to persevere, to throw nets over the right side of the boat this time, to try something new, to set out on the path, to be willing to engage with a hurting world, a hurting person one more time. They want these beautiful children to have what Jesus is offering, a path, a purpose, a way of being. They want their children to say yes to Jesus's breakfast invitation.

A breakfast invitation that feeds, that is a South for living and journeying that gives us salvation. Salvation is often associated with end times, being saved, where we go after we die like my five-year-old self was asking about. But I love the musing of this about salvation given by their Franciscan monk and contemplative Richard Rohr, he says, "Could salvation simply be the willingness to remain in loving relationship with all of creation?" When we read the words of our baptisms, when we claim the power and nourishment of each of us in Christ, we may understand salvation as relationship, that actions and intentions rooted in connection is the South for us and for our world. It's what we pray for in our gorgeous closing prayer of baptism and I hope when we pray them in a little bit, you will hear these words for our children and for yourself. Give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and persevere, a spirit to know and love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. These children during their lives will face what is, they will wonder. These little beings will ask us questions we don't know the answer to and they will go places that we can't go. We and they were made for these times, we have the nourishment we need. Jesus tells them, Jesus tells us, come have breakfast, Amen.