



Homily
Light of Christ Anglican Church
The Rev. Michael J. Moffitt
June 3, 2022

Celebration of the Life of Freddy Dean Fife

Today both family and friends have come to remember Freddy Dean Fife, to pay tribute and to celebrate his life here on earth. I appreciate Cindy's tribute to her husband. It is a very courageous thing to do at such a time as this. I assure her that we'll be praying for her and the family in the coming days.

Many of you here today knew Freddy better than I did. I had several occasions to talk with him at some length and there for a while he would call me daily asking me to pray with him, and it was my privilege to do so. He knew that his time was short, and his health was failing. Actually, as I considered what to say this afternoon I recognized that I have a better understanding of Freddy through Cindy his devoted wife. I'm in my seventh year at Light of Christ and I met Cindy and Henry soon after I arrived here. Their life has been difficult, but they always faced each day with the hope that somehow things would work out.

Cindy dedicated her time and efforts to making him comfortable and see to it that Freddy had what he needed. I often hoped that Freddy knew how much Cindy cared about him and I know this is will be a difficult adjustment for her and the family.

Even when we know that our time here is just about up, facing the death of a loved one is always difficult and there is never seems to be really a perfect time to say goodbye. So today we gather together to help shoulder

the burden that is so hard to bear alone. Often, in an attempt to make ourselves feel better we encourage ourselves and others by saying things like, “Well she/he has gone to a better place” or “We’ll see them again.” There’s a question that I want to briefly address. Is it true that we will see our loved ones again?. One thing is certain, the day will come when each of us will be the one being memorialized and those who gather together may be asking themselves, “I wonder where they are? I hope I see them again.”

In our Gospel reading today Jesus spoke to this very question. In [John 5:24–25](#) Jesus says,

“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment but has passed from death to life.

“Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.”

Jesus is very clear that those who hear the truth of his gospel message and put their faith and trust in him will not face their creator in judgment. Instead they will experience the ultimate joy of eternal life in the presence of God. For those who follow him reap the benefit of being welcomed into the family of God.

However in verses 28–29 he continues,

“Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.”

Our separation from loved ones who have died in the faith is temporary, providing we too have put our faith and trust in Jesus Christ. We will see them again and then there will be no more death or sorrow or pain forever.

The sobering fact before us today is that every one of us will one day be the one being mourned, and it will either be a celebration of life now continued eternally in the presence of God or a tragedy of life now lived in eternal judgment because the offer of God for salvation in Christ alone was rejected. Sin and judgment are not popular topics in our culture and those who dare brook the subject are often seen as unloving, narrow-minded bigots. The truth is that not speaking of this teaching of Scripture is extremely unloving because it is a matter of eternal life or eternal damnation.

We live in a time and among many people who have rejected God and have no idea of a loving creator and because of that, they have no sense of hope or the truth and meaning of the love of Christ revealed through the cross. Many are seeking to find out the meaning of life and have concluded that life has no real meaning or hope.

I never want to miss a chance of telling the truth of God's love and desire for those who do not know him to come to saving faith through Jesus Christ.

If you are a Christian then you must reveal the good news of the gospel to those who struggle with believing. When you introduce anyone to Jesus Christ, you are introducing that person to their true identity, their true purpose which is to know God and to worship and enjoy him forever. Our creation was not random or without purpose. It was intentional and with great purpose.

The fact is that God through Christ offers us relationship with Him here and now. That is what we were created for and the more we run away from God the more we suffer the consequences of our sin. It leads us to addictions, misery, and dissatisfaction with life that ultimately will cause us to continue to pursue things that look promising but once attained bring us no relief. Only Jesus is able to meet the need of our hearts and we can only have Jesus when we are willing to bow our wills to him and in repentance turn to Him for our hope and salvation.

Today we come to say goodbye to Freddy Fife. He has gone on, but you and I are still here. Where will you spend eternity? Jesus was very clear, he is the only way to the Father, the only way to hope and to salvation, there are no other options, no back door. Several times I asked Freddy if he had made the choice to follow the Lord Jesus and he said yes. If that is true then because of that decision this day of mourning is also a day of celebration for Freddy and all those who by faith have turned to Christ. So my question for you today is, have you bowed down to Jesus Christ inviting Him to be your Lord and Savior? Have you decided to follow Jesus?

Let's pray.

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