

December 29, 2020

Feast of Holy Fools

Hello again Gobin Family,

First, I would like to thank you for making it this far! You are almost half way through Christmas! I pray you are finding the depth and beauty of the Feast of Christmastide- enjoying God with us!

On the fifth day of Christmastide the Church celebrates St. Thomas Becket, the Archbishop of Canterbury who was killed in the twelfth Century for challenging the authority of the King.

However, I would like to point us to something more ancient than this particular Saint in drawing out the meaning of this Feast day.

To begin, let me remind you as we considered during our Advent, the 12 day Christmas Feast was drawn from the Celtic world due to its richness of meaning and connection to Creation.

Within the Celtic Festival of Winter Solstice today's feast was called the feast of Holy Fools. The Celts taught that it was necessary to hold space in this great feast for an "intentional foolishness". To play, if you will, and to find a childlike enjoyment in the beautiful simplicity of life.

Now, please stay with me as we find the correlation to our Christian Tradition. On the Christian calendar today we read the story of Simeon from the Gospel of Luke. As you might remember, Simeon holds the baby Jesus and gives God jubilant praise. This is a beautiful image of an older adult, who the scripture tells us waited his entire life to see the Messiah, giving praise and rejoicing while holding a tiny baby. I imagine those around him thought he looked VERY foolish.

Friends, in our hyper-rational age we NEED this invitation. To let go of our thinking mind, even for a few moments, and just BE.

We are invited today to accept the invitation of Jesus and become like a little child. THIS is the Kingdom of God. Allowing ourselves to let go, even if just for a few moments, of our ego related need to understand, fix, and control EVERYTHING in our life.

Today, you have an excuse to just be silly! Today is an opportunity to NOT google the thing you can't seem to remember, or avoid the things in your life that seem to make no sense!

Today, be a fool, for Christ's sake ;)

Grace and Peace,
Joel Everson