



ST. ANDREW'S IN THE PINES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SERMON
5-26-13

- I. Children's bedtime prayers: Father, Mother, God loving me. Guard me while I sleep, Guide my little feet, up to Thee.
 - a. God as Father and Mother. God not only a male.
 - b. Wisdom or Sophia is a female spirit that was present with God at the creation of the world.
 - c. Genesis 1:26 "Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness,'"
 - d. God is both male and female and loves all us equally – male and female.
 - e. Celebrate in your bedtime prayer that God loves every part of you.

- II. Wisdom literature – throughout the Bible but sporadically – Proverbs, Matthew, James, Paul
 - a. Apocrypha with Wisdom of Solomon and Sirach.
 - b. Solomon, son of David – written about in Kings
 - c. Don't hear much about the feminine aspect of God.

- III. Wisdom, or Sophia in Greek is a central idea/focus in Greek Orthodoxy. The Hagia Sophia church in Istanbul/Constantinople – Holy Wisdom
 - a. In the theology of the Eastern Orthodox Church, Holy Wisdom is understood as the Divine Logos who became incarnate as Jesus Christ. The opening of John – in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."
 - b. For some theologians Sophia is co-existent with the trinity – the feminine aspect of God. At times early Church Fathers named Christ as Wisdom- the high title of Christ or other gnostic teaching have Sophia and Jesus as a blended being – the maleness and femaleness together.
 - c. Some Christian writings speak of a Quaternity Godhead – rather than trinity. God is made up of four divine beings – Father, Mother, Son and daughter.

- IV. Why is this important to us?
 - a. To recognize there are different Christian writings/teachings that we aren't exposed to regularly.
 - b. To pay attention to how much maleness permeates our Bible and our worship services.
 - c. To pay attention to honoring an equality between man and woman. Wyoming being the Equality State and yet having one of the largest pay discrepancies between men and women.
 - d. To understand that we are diminished when our idea of leadership rests with a male image.
 - e. Wholeness comes from embracing, truly celebrating the male and female together – in all of us as individuals and as community.
 - f. To change our images we hold in our minds and to change the language when we speak of God.

Let us strive, let us commit a community of female and male – equally valued, respected, embraced.
Thanks be to God.