

Rev. Paul A. Hottinger

Harmony and Justice Thirty-fourth Week in Ordinary Time Monday, November 26, 2018 Rev 14:1-3, 4b-5; Lk 21:1-4 (The only way peace, harmony, well-being, equity, justice will ever spread on this planet is by our desire for the will God to be done, and not our own wills.)

The readings in this morning's liturgy focus on **the unity of the human race**. Now although the actual historical and biological origins of the human race are still shrouded in mystery, what is quite remarkable is that **DNA shows this remarkable unity**. All human races are interchangeable in terms of their DNA. No matter what apparent differences exist, they are all explained by a very small, tiny amount of DNA. The vast majority is all the same. And I believe also that eighty percent at least of human DNA is shared with chimpanzees. So we could talk about the unity of the entire life system, which is quite marvelous.

The problem comes of course with human behavior. It has always been the problem. And the stories in the Bible, in the Old Testament, in the Book of Genesis, talk about it. From the very beginning there's been a problem with human behavior. **Human beings don't act in unity**. **Human beings act in rivalry**. The story of Adam and Eve is the story of human beings putting themselves as rivals of God, trusting in themselves and their own wisdom more than in the wisdom that brought them into existence. And although there were notably righteous people in the early days such as Able and Noah, Abraham and Joseph, most were very flawed. And yet **God continued to try to bring about unity and harmony and justice and cohesion, and peace therefore**. Peace can only come as a fruit of justice, and so it is a great work, and God has been about this work all along, thus the stories of our Scripture.

So we are still in the midst of this great enterprise of bringing about harmony and justice and equity to this planet. Every day there is more news about some tragic event and almost all of it is either directly or indirectly caused by human choices. In a way even wildfires are

a result of human choices, building where there is no water, and so on, not to mention bringing in electricity and other things. But more directly we have all kinds of violence, crime on crime in our world. And it should be a great concern to all of us. And then of course we have the long-term problems of the environment and how human activity is apparently really changing things in a radical way, seemingly anyway; that seems to be the indication, and what to do about that. So we have a lot of things to think about and the point of our Scripture and our liturgy is **it all begins with our desire for what God wants, and not our desire for what we want**, in other words, an end to the rivalry between our wills and the will God. The only way peace, harmony, well-being, equity, justice will ever spread on this planet is by our desire for the will of God to be done, and not our own wills.