



A Portal Addendum!

Rejoice and be glad! On Saturday, May 4th, Amelia Ficalora, Anthony Ficalora, and Catherine Sepples will be confirmed, and Kevin Case and Guy Hayes will reaffirm their Baptismal Covenant. The service will be held at Camp Washington, 190 Kenyon Rd, Lakeside, CT at 10:00 am. All are welcome.

Come Sunday to congratulate them!!

Friday's Formation Note

How far does God's Love extend?

How far does God's love extend? How far does God desire our love to extend? How far can love extend?

In our Psalm for this coming Sunday, Psalm 98, even the rivers and hills are called to rejoice, the lands, the mountains, and the seas to make a joyful noise. All the earth - all creation - is invited to join in praise and wonder at God's victory, God's righteousness and mercy, God's faithfulness.

"Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things!"

We cannot know for certain what victory the psalmist had in mind when this was first written, but the joy is clear, and the vision presented is so vast that nothing on the whole earth can refuse the clarion call.

"Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing!"

Do not hold back! Do not worry! Do not fear! Always the Lord has triumphed and will triumph, and the earth shall be glad.

And we shall be glad.

Dame Julian of Norwich, whose feast we mark on May 8, lived in England in the 14th-15th centuries. She was incredibly devout, and well-educated, which was not common for women at that time. A time came when she fell desperately ill, and, lying near death experienced a series of visions of Christ's sufferings. In a rush, she wrote about these "shewings," and began to recover her health. She became an anchorite - living in seclusion, confined to a small room attached to the church in Norwich, where she became a spiritual guide to all and sundry. She expanded her writings about the visions, adding details and

reflections. The resulting text, *The Revelations of Divine Love*, is still consulted to this day.

In these years dominated by the Black Death, hers was a message of hope and trust in God, and in God's love beyond measure.

Perhaps the most well-known message she shared was, "All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well."

Her song of rejoicing has echoed in the church for nearly 600 years.

This is the power of God's love, that it transcends time and tragedy and turbulence, and still fills our souls with delight.

This is the resurrection of God's Son, the revelation of God's true nature, the song of hills and rivers, of lands and mountains and seas.

Rejoice, therefore, and sing.

The Rev Evelyn Wheeler

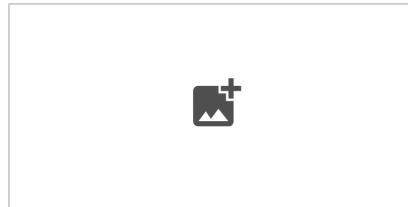
St. John's Church, P.O. Box 27, Pine Meadow, CT. 06061

(860) 379-3062

Email: office@reddoors.com

Website: Reddoors.com

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