

July 13th

The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

“Go and Do Likewise”

Main Text: Luke 10:25-37

(Deuteronomy 30:9-14; Colossians 1:1-14)

There are many examples of those who have put on Christ, walked in the way of the Spirit, modeled how the rule and discipline of faith are to be lived. Christ, is of course, the benchmark and true model of the faith. I have heard people say about someone else, “I wish I had half their faith.” The problem with this statement is that it shoots to low. God has called us to do likewise. These witnesses who show us the way and model that walk, including Christ, are only useful when we follow in that same faith. Our reading from Deuteronomy reminds us that this commandment is not too hard or too far from us. We now know that in Christ the Word is near. It is because of the closeness of the one who has modeled for us the way, we can now do it. In Colossians, we are reminded that we are surrounded by great saints to whom we are to draw inspiration and support. Now we are called to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord with all power, endurance, patience and joy. God has qualified us to go and do likewise. In this story in Luke’s Gospel, Jesus lifts up the witness of the Samaritan. He raises a question of which is truly a neighbor between the priest, Levite and Samaritan. It is the compassion of the Samaritan that not only claimed to be a neighbor but embodied it. Jesus then tells them and us to go and do likewise.