

SAINT THOMAS CHURCH

Fifth Avenue · New York City

Sermon Outline

Palm Sunday, 10th April 2022

Lord Bishop Sentamu

11:00 a.m.

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Reading: Philippians 2:1-11
Theme: Living a Jesus Christ Shaped Life

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The ancient Christian hymn in Philippians 2 contains a **call to unity and humility for the church - a community of the Holy Spirit which is** enemy of division and party-spirit.

The sign that we are our Lord's disciples is in **Living a Jesus Christ shaped life in** unity with others *with the same love for one another and a common attitude of mind* (Philippians 2: 2). Doing everything as unto the Lord, and as if in his full gaze. **This is living a Jesus Christ shaped life.**

Jesus Christ, is the Good Shepherd whose sheep follow him *"because they know his voice"*, And so, a true minister, a true disciple can dare to say to others: **"Follow me, as I am following Jesus"**.

What matters is that people should grow in holiness, wisdom and love. For the life of Jesus Christ was not written: it was lived. And that is the secret of every witness, every disciple, every minister of Jesus Christ – **that the life of the Good Shepherd is being lived in them. So we too need to Live a Jesus Christ shaped life** - helping others, to flourish both in things of the earth and in matters of the Holy Spirit.

For we are members of a body, which requires that every part should be in harmony with the whole, no-one considering themselves better than others.

Jesus Christ: *"was in the form of God; yet he laid no claim to equality with God, but made himself nothing, assuming the form of a slave.* (Philippians 2:6-7). –We lose nothing by nurturing this spirit of humility, for he was honoured in the end. **None of us is the centre of the universe. Jesus Christ is.**

That is why in **living a Jesus Christ shaped life**, we learn that **the way to ascend is to descend.** *"He who would be chief must be willing to be the servant of all"* (Mark 10:43 -44).

May this Mission Unit of St. Thomas Church Fifth Avenue, New York, as a community of the Holy Spirit, think, reflect, and act, attending **to the whole of Scripture and to Scripture as a whole** - seeing how the New Testament is proclaiming the fulfilment of the gracious promises of the Old. Living in **unity and humility**, in a **Jesus-Christ-shaped way** so that people will ask, 'what manner of people are these who love each other implicitly. And we can answer - They are living Lives that are Jesus Christ shaped'.