

Seeing the Invisible

Written by Calvin Fox
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My major reason for attending an Episcopal Church is to participate in Holy Communion every week. My experience is that participation in the entire Eucharistic Book of Common (BCP) Liturgy is participation in spiritual reality. It is clear that The Lord's Supper (or as it has been known from the first Century- The Eucharist) was the very center of corporate Worship from the beginning of the Church. This is because it is the Word, the Gospel, made visible. More than that, BCP Worship, particularly Communion, is the God-given portal into the Presence of God. Through it we may approach the Unapproachable.

Here is a foundational truth: The Triune God is an unseen Eternal Reality- 1 Tim 6:15-16, John 1:18 But He reveals Himself and wants to be "seen". He normally reveals himself indirectly through various means, particularly: Preaching the Gospel and Scripture (Luke 24:27, 31-32)

Break Thou the bread of life, dear Lord, to me, As Thou didst break the loaves beside the sea;
Beyond the sacred page I seek Thee, Lord; My spirit pants for Thee, O living Word! O send Thy Spirit, Lord, now unto me, That He may touch my eyes, and make me see: Show me the truth concealed within Thy Word,

And what Mary Lathbury wrote about the Bible can also be said about Nature (Psalm 19:1-4) and the Eucharist (1 Cor 10:16, 11:27-29) - looking through them we can "see" God. This is true also of works of Art used in the Worship (such as music, flowers, stained glass and lighting).

Acts 17:27 23 For as I [Paul] went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship; I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown god." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. 24 The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, 26 from one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth ... 27 so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. 28 For "In him we live and move and have our being";

1 Cor 13:12 ...now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.

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2 Cor 4:18 we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

Heb 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. 13 These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar ... 27 [Moses] ... endured as seeing him who is invisible.

1 Peter 1:8 Though you have not [literally, only sacramentally] seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory

Yes, the Hidden God may reveal Himself through all of the Acts and Arts of Worship to the Faith-full with eyes to see and ears to hear.