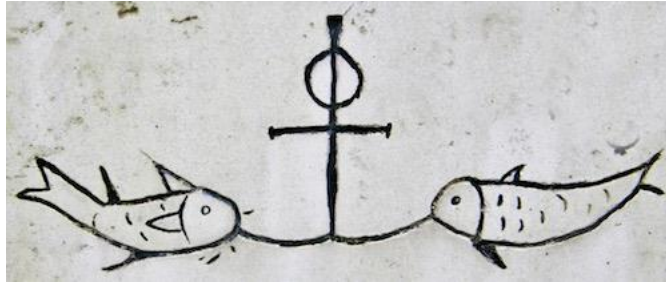


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Our Anchor Within the Veil

Hebrews 6:13-20

Bernard Bell



Background

One of the earliest Christian symbols is the anchor, sometimes combined with other symbols such as fish or a cross. In Hebrews we read that hope is an anchor for our souls. Where is this anchor? It is “within the veil,” in the inner sanctum where Jesus has entered. And so we sing, in the Hebrews-approved version, “Our anchor holds within the veil.” (photo: Catacombs of St. Domatilla, Rome)

Sermon Text: Heb 6:13-20 (NIV)

13 When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself, 14 saying, “I will surely bless you and give you many descendants.” 15 And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised.

16 People swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument. 17 Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath. 18 God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged. 19 We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, 20 where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.

Discussion Questions

1. Preparation

- What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
- What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- What is the best thing you heard on Sunday?

2. Sunday questions

- Today's text is centered on the image of an anchor. Do you have a favorite Christian image (ie. cross, fish, loaves, anchor, boat, etc)? Why is this your favorite image? What text does it bring to mind for you?
- They hymn *Solid Rock (My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less)* contains the reference to the "[anchor for the soul](#)" (verse 19):

*When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
in every high and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the veil.*

Do you have a favorite hymn (on Sunday we sang *How Great Thou Art* and *Solid Rock*)? Explain.

- What would you say is your anchor for hope right now? Is it Jesus (will hold) or is it something in this world, such as health, wealth, prosperity, family, children (and their success), work or self-significance? How has that changed over your lifetime?
- Abraham is used throughout the New Testament as the paradigm of faith even though his faith gave way on several occasions. By the end of his life, "his faith was firmly anchored in God." How does his story encourage you in your faith?
- Bernard shared how another image used by the early church was the image of a boat. The whole church is in the boat together, securely tethered to *the* anchor, who is Christ. We encourage each other and care for each other as we weather the storms together. Do you feel encouraged and cared for by the church? Why or why not?

