

✨ Sermon: “Faith as Surrender, Not Certainty”

Father Wayne Barron - 8th Sunday after Trinity

And now, may I speak in the name of our loving God—Father, Son, and the One who is good. Amen.

Today, we are invited to reflect again on the centrality of faith. And if there’s one beautiful truth I want to get across to you this morning, it’s this:

> Faith is not a set of ideas. Faith is something we do.

We often treat faith as a collection of beliefs, a mental checklist of truths we affirm. But faith is not merely intellectual assent. It is an act—a living, breathing, trusting surrender to God.

✍️ “We Believe”: More Than Words

Later in this service, we’ll recite the Creed together. We’ll say, “We believe.” But let’s pause and ask: what does “believe” really mean?

In modern English, “believe” often refers to what we think is true in our minds. But the Latin root of the Creed—Credo—means something far deeper. It means “I trust.” Not “I think this is true,” but “I am actively placing my trust in this.”

So when we say the Creed, we’re not describing God. We’re not listing facts. We’re saying:
> “This is the God I trust. This is the God I am experiencing. This is the God in whom I place my life.”

🏞️ The Deposit of Faith: Traces of Trust

The Creed, the Scriptures, the Church—these are what tradition calls the “deposit of faith.” Originally a financial metaphor, like a deposit on a house. But I prefer a geological image: a canyon carved by the flow of water over centuries.

Think of this church, this tradition, like a great canyon. The rituals, the prayers, the structures—they are the traces left behind by the mighty flow of faith through generations. They are beautiful, yes. But beauty is not the point.

> The point is: we must seek the power that carved them.
> We must plug into the energy that shaped them.

Without the living experience of faith, the Church is just a machine—unplugged, admired, but unused.

The Visible and the Invisible

Today's readings remind us that our lives are not confined to what we can control. We humans love maps, schedules, and certainty. But Scripture warns us:

- > The visible is plunged into the invisible.
- > The known is surrounded by mystery.

Abraham was called out of everything he knew, into the desert, into nothingness—on a promise. No guarantees. Just trust. And from that trust, Isaac was born.

Faith, says Hebrews, is the assurance of things not seen. But this is not wishful thinking. It's not choosing an impossible dream and demanding God fulfill it. That's not faith. That's fantasy.

- > Faith is trust. Faith is surrender. Faith is relationship.

No Experts in Faith

In Christianity, there are no experts. You can know the Bible inside out. You can master theology. But the only expert on your relationship with God—is you.

Faith is a continual act of surrender. It means letting go of the illusion that we know best. It means handing over our fears, our fragilities, our control.

And it requires honesty.
Honesty with ourselves.
Honesty with God.
Honesty with one another.

Taste and See

“O taste and see that the Lord is gracious.”

This is the consistent appeal of Scripture. Don't just recite the Creed. Don't just go through the motions. Taste God.

We taste God in the sacraments.
We taste God when we let go.
We taste God when we confront our fears and hand them over.

And then—then we feel His energy.
In our bodies.

In our minds.
In our hearts.
In our souls.

Faith as Practice

Faith is not easy. It's a practice. As Sister Ethel said in Bible study, it's something we do. And when we stop practicing, we fall back into habits—habits of fear, scarcity, hostility.

Faith requires radical openness.
Open hands.
Open arms.
Open hearts.

So today, I pray that each of us receives an impulse from God.
To renew our lives of faith.
To live actively in trust.
To surrender again and again to God's unfailing wonders.

Amen.

10th August 2025