

# **Union Congregational Church**

Adult Sunday School

October 20, 2013

Catherine of Siena

*Devotional Classic*=

“a kind of writing that has stood the test of time and that seeks to form the soul before God.”

9/22: **St. Augustine** (*pp. 55-61*)

9/29: **François Fénelon** (*pp. 48-54*)

10/6: **Evelyn Underhill** (*pp. 94-100*)

10/13: **Apocryphal Literature**

10/20: **Catherine of Siena** (*pp.264-270*)

10/27: **Kathleen Norris** (*pp. 363-368*)

# **Catherine of Siena**

## **(1347-1380)**



## Brief bio

- 24 of 25 children
- Poor family, but devout Catholic
- Age 15: cut off hair;  
Age 18: became a nun



## Brief bio

- Worked/served as a nurse to the poor
- One of two patron saints of Italy (other is St. Francis of Assisi)

I want to describe the Bridge for you. It stretches from heaven to earth by reason of my having joined myself with your humanity which I formed in the earth's clay. This bridge has three stairs....

*(Section 1)*

When my goodness saw that you could be drawn in no other way, I sent him to be lifted onto the wood of the cross. I made of that cross an anvil where this child of humankind could be hammered into an instrument to release humankind from death and restore it to the life of grace. In this way he drew everything to himself: for he proved his inspeakable love, and the human heart is always drawn by love.

*(Section 4)*

I explained all this to you because I wanted to let you see the way. So when he says that he is the Way, he is speaking the truth. And I have already shown you that he is the Way, in the image of a bridge. He says he is the Truth, and so he is, and whoever follows him goes the way of truth. And he is Life. If you follow his truth, you will have the life of grace and never die of hunger, for the Word has himself become your food.

*(Section 7)*

John 14:1 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. 2 In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. 4 You know the way to the place where I am going.”

John 14:5 Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

6 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

# Questions from *Devotional Classics*

1. Describe the three stairs in your own words. In what ways have you experienced any of these?

## Questions from *Devotional Classics*

2. The cross, for Catherine of Siena, is the bridge between God and humanity. Does Catherine believe that the cross of Jesus is the only way to God? Do you believe that the cross of Jesus is the only way? Explain.

## Questions from *Devotional Classics*

4. In section 6, Catherine gives us a glimpse of the importance of the Church in the spiritual journey. What role does it play? In what ways does your church provide this benefit to travelers like yourself?

# **Suggested Exercise from *Devotional Classics***

God uses his Church to provide sustenance for us along the way, notes Catherine. This week come to worship with an empty stomach, longing to receive the nourishment for your soul that God wants to provide through his Church.

# **For Next Week...**

Sunday, October 27, 2013

***Kathleen Norris*** (pp. 363-368)  
(*Abram will send scan if needed*)