

W E E K L Y M E D I A T I O N

God has gone up with a shout! The Lord with the sound of the trumpet!

In music, 'counterpoint' refers to a relationship between voices that are independent of each other and yet are harmonically interdependent.

In our Christian life there are two distinct themes which nonetheless exist simultaneously in a sort of spiritual harmony.

On the one hand, there is the theme of work. Every believer - and the Church as a whole - has a range of important and indeed critical tasks and ministries. In the account of the Lord's Ascension, angels tell the disciples to stop gazing up into the heavens. Those disciples have work to do as apostles - teaching, preaching, working miracles, building up the Body of Christ - and they had best get on with it.

On the other hand, there is the theme of worship. The Apostle argues that because we have been raised and lifted up with Christ we are to seek heavenly things, to set our minds on things above rather than on things on earth (Colossians 3:1-2). When we gather at the Divine Liturgy we are directed to lay aside all earthly cares and to lift our hearts and minds on high. In our worship, we contemplate and participate in the heavenly.

We draw our inspiration, vision and nurture from the things which are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God and the Eucharistic banquet of the heavenly Kingdom is eternally celebrated. The grace of our participation in heavenly worship empowers us to undertake our tasks and responsibilities and ministries in this world. Our life and our work, our concerns and struggles, are the very stuff of the prayers we offer through the ascended Christ to our heavenly Father.

The mutual dependence of vision and work are the spiritual counterpoint of our life in Christ.

Fr. Andrew