

Good News Daily

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Sunday, March 18

Psalm 118 *Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.* (v.29 NIV)

After dinner with friends recently, we went to a sports pub to catch our city's hockey team in a playoff game on TV. The pub was crowded and we were winning, so everyone was in high spirits. Before sitting down, I went to the restroom. When I arrived at the crowded table, my friend shouted my name, started clapping and cheering for me—just to be silly. That caught on to the rest of the table and continued until the entire pub was clapping and cheering for me. I smiled sheepishly, took a bow and sat down. It was hilarious. I did absolutely nothing to deserve it and nobody knew me other than my friends, yet I received cheers and applause.

Our God deserves that kind of praise everyday just because He is the Almighty Everlasting God. A friend told me she stands up, claps, and cheers when she is worshipping in church just like she does at a concert because she is so happy to be in God's presence. We should give God the praise He deserves every day.

Exodus 3:16—4:12; Romans 12:1-21; John 8:46-59

ANGLICAN CYCLE: PRAY for Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui; The Most Revd Paul Kwong Archbishop of Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui & Bishop of Hong Kong Island

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. Paul's Parish, Alton, The Rev. Cynthia A. Sever, Rector; Muungano Parish: Rev. Samson Yakobo, Urambo, Tanzania; The Missions of St. Patrick and St. Mark, District of Ventanilla, Callao, Peru, The Rev. Jaime Siancas, Priest in Charge; The Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Springfield, Consecration of church building, 1913; St. Paul's, Pekin, Anniversary of the Consecration of church building, 1876; Pray for the attendees completing their Annual ECW Retreat this weekend at Toddhall.

Monday, March 19

Mark 9:30-41 *They came to Capernaum. When he was safe at home, he asked them, "What were you discussing on the road?" The silence was deafening—they had been arguing with one another over who among them was greatest.* (vv.33-34 The Message)

I loved driving my kids and their friends around. I'd savor the conversations they had. I hoped to pick up little nuggets of intel about them, their personal lives

and kids their age. I'd sit quietly as they talked. It didn't seem like eavesdropping because they knew I was in the car. I gleaned a lot of information on those rides and had great insight into the kids' lives and their personalities.

The disciples didn't realize Jesus could hear that a heated conversation was underway. They were embarrassed when he inquired about it. To them it seemed an important topic; to Jesus, I am sure, it was pointless.

I learned as a child that God is omnipresent, omnipotent, and omniscient. I often think about the Lord overhearing my conversations. What would my words show about me? Would I be embarrassed by them and ashamed? Or would my words be like sweet music to his ears? I pray my words don't denigrate the Lord, but glorify him and bless others.

Exodus 4:10-31; Psalm 31; 1 Corinthians 14:1-19

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Brechin - (Scotland) The Rt Revd Nigel Peyton

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. Mark's, West Frankfort, Anniversary of the Consecration of church building, 1939; Anniversary of the consecration of the Rt. Rev. Daniel Hayden Martins as the 11th Bishop of Springfield.

ST. MATTHEWS: Ruth Stock's birthday.

Tuesday, March 20

Psalm 121 *He who keeps you will not slumber.* (v.3b NASB)

When my daughter was in the second grade we moved into a new house. Her bedroom, which had been next to ours, was now on the other side of the house. She expressed her fear at not being close to us and wondered who would take care of her. I assured her she would be fine and that God was watching over her all night. I promised He would not fall asleep as He was guarding her. I read her this psalm. That provided the comfort and assurance her little seven-year-old soul needed.

As adults, some days we feel like "We've got this!" and some days we feel like we need that assurance as well. This psalm should continue to comfort our troubled souls. God, creator of heaven and earth, watches over us. He doesn't fall asleep as he protects our going out and our coming in. He doesn't stop protecting us. He is always with us providing shade and shelter and defending us from evil. That is comfort and assurance that this fifty-year-old soul needs.

Exodus 5:1—6:1; Psalms 120, 122, 123; 1 Corinthians 14:20-40; Mark 9:42-50

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Brisbane - (Queensland, Australia) The Most Revd Phillip John Aspinall;

Anglican Bishop to the Australian Defence Force - The Rt Revd Ian Keese Lambert;

Brisbane - Northern Region - The Rt Revd Jonathan Holland; Brisbane - Southern Region - The Rt Revd Alison Taylor; Brisbane - Western Region - The Rt Revd Cameron Venables

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of Ruth, widow of the Rev. Eric B. Asboe, Nebraska City, NE.

Wednesday, March 21

Exodus 7:8-24 Then *the Lord said to Moses, “Pharaoh’s heart is stubborn; he refuses to let the people go.”* (v.14)

When God created us in His image, Scripture teaches that He loved us so much that He gave us free will—the choice to follow Him and love Him or not. Because of this choice, there are many people who choose to follow their own ways, which lead to sin.

Pharaoh caused the Israelites great suffering and strife when they served as his slaves. He was a cruel and unforgiving master. God said Pharaoh was stubborn, his heart was hard. God loves all of his creation regardless of how they feel towards Him. The events surrounding Pharaoh, Moses, and the Israelites only served to glorify God in the end. The Almighty God is bigger than someone rejecting him.

As humans, we can lose heart when a person rejects God and the plan doesn’t go as it seems it should. Take heart, loved one; nothing can stop God’s will from being done.

Psalm 119:145-176; 2 Corinthians 2:14—3:6; Mark 10:1-16

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Bristol - (Canterbury, England) The Rt Revd Michael Arthur Hill; Bristol - Swindon - The Rt Revd Lee Stephen Rayfield

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of Rikke, wife of the Rev. Donald H. Langlois, Chandler, AZ.

Thursday, March 22

Mark 10:17-31 *Jesus looked him hard in the eye—and loved him.* (v.21 The Message)

A friend told me a story about when he was a teenager. He and his brother came home from school and were starving. They decided to make baloney sandwiches. They were having fun, one thing led to another, and the sandwich building launched into a food fight. There was baloney sticking to the ceiling, ketchup sliding down the walls—a real mess!

When their mom (a single mother) arrived home tired from a long day’s work, she saw the war zone and the giggling boys. She was furious! I am sure she wanted to string them up by their toes. Instead, my friend said, she looked them hard in the eye and loved them. They all proceeded to laugh as they cleaned up the kitchen together.

If you are a parent, you know sometimes you just get so frustrated with your kids that it takes all of your self-control. Although He is infinitely patient, I am

sure God can get frustrated with us. He looks deep into our souls, knows all about us—every single detail—and still loves us. Thank God!

Exodus 7:25—8:19; Psalms 131, 132, 133; 2 Corinthians 3:7-18

ANGLICAN CYCLE: British Columbia - (British Columbia & the Yukon, Canada)

The Rt Revd Logan McMenamie

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of The Rev Charles J. Reischman, Littleton, CO.

Friday, March 23

Mark 10:32-45 *Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do for us whatever we ask."* (v.35 NIV)

That's a pretty big request—to be seated on either side of Jesus in heaven, in places of authority, power, and honor! I am struck by the brashness, arrogance, and entitlement of it. This is what they thought they rightfully deserved and so they asked the Lord for it.

Jesus probably "looked them hard in the eye—and loved them" (see yesterday's writing). Then he responded with a teaching about serving others, sacrificing your life for others, and how the Father would decide these things, not Jesus.

I feel like I need to review my prayer requests, as they should be humble requests, not assertive demands for power and prestige. I need to pray for God's will to be done, not mine.

Lord, forgive me for demanding things from You. I want to humbly come before You and share my burdens and desires. I also want Your will to be done and You to be glorified. Amen.

Exodus 9:13-35; Psalm 22; 2 Corinthians 4:1-12

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Buhiga - (Burundi) The Rt Revd Evariste Nijimbere

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of Stephanie, wife of The Rev Brant V. Hazlett, Mt. Carmel.

ST. MATTHEWS: Daniel Teas' birthday.

Saturday, March 24

2 Corinthians 4:13-18 *...while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.* (v.18 NASB)

Recently, I had to travel by myself to take care of a family member who was in distress and needed someone to walk beside them for a short while. I was reluctant to go. I didn't want to leave my family, or face the pressing issues and others that might arise. Bottom line—it was going to be difficult and I was afraid.

My husband and I gave this trip to the Lord and he continued to pray while I was away. During the trip, I got up early to spend time with the Lord, laying my

burdens on Him. I found a church to attend on Sunday. Throughout each day, I prayed for wisdom, patience, strength, kind words, and peace.

I could feel the Lord walking beside me as we went to meetings to address the issues and find solutions. I returned home feeling like a plan was in place to help my family member out of the distress and have hope. Looking back at the week, it was one of those times that, as I focused on the Lord above, He was carrying me through the difficulties below.

Exodus 10:21—11:8; Psalms 137, 144; Mark 10:46-52

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Bujumbura - (Burundi) The Rt Revd Eraste Bigirimana

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. Paul's Carlinville, Consecration of church building, 1881; Birthday of The Rev Cn. Dale D. Coleman, Belleville

ST. MATTHEWS: Roger & Martha Hollis' wedding anniversary.

by Mara McClain

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For the St. Matthew's Community, please remember the following in your prayers this week:

Pray for the sick and those in distress: Charlie, Tim H. and family, Greg P., Linda S., Phyllis P., Bill J., Ron G., Bill, Bobbi, Matt, Tori B., Dave M., Bill Mc., Linda T., Dottie T., Roger H., Jack P., Zac & Alyssa & Carson C., Jenna A.

Pray for the Faithful Departed:

Pray for those living in nursing homes and other shut-ins: Dale B., Alicia P., Barb W., Daniel T., Ina R., and Margaret P.

Pray for: The Diocese of Tabora, Anglican Church of Tanzania, The Rt. Rev. Elias Chakupewa, the clergy and people. The Missionary Diocese of Peru, The Rt. Rev. Alejandro Mesco. Fr. Kari Marcelle, the clergy and people of Holy Trinity St. Vincent. Fr. Dave and all clergy, for whom we light the candle on the west side of the Altar