

Good News Daily

**Volume
XVIII**

May 6-12, 2018

Number 18

Sunday, May 6

James 1:2-8, 16-18 *If you don't know what you're doing, pray to the Father. He loves to help.* (v.5 The Message)

“Help, Lord! What words of comfort and wisdom can I give her from You?” was my prayer when a friend asked me to pray for her father. His surgery had several unexpected complications. Knowing that her faith in Christ was young, and that she trusted me, was overwhelming. I wanted her to trust God in a deeper way.

“Be joyful always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 5:18) was the Scripture that was provided. “Hardly helpful, Lord,” I said. “You know my friend doesn't understand You very well and might blame You if her dad's healing doesn't go well.”

Praying over my friend, I asked for a new knowledge of the presence, power, and will of God. I encouraged her to call for His help and watch what He was doing in everything that related to her father's medical treatment. And, that is exactly what happened. She came to trust and depend fully on the Lord, as her father's hospitalization and rehabilitation lasted several months.

Leviticus 25:1-7; Psalms 93, 96; Luke 12:13-21

ANGLICAN CYCLE: PRAY for The Anglican Church of Kenya The Most Revd Jackson Ole Sapit Primate and Archbishop of All Kenya

DIOCESAN CYCLE: The Cathedral of St. Paul, Springfield, The Very Rev.

Andrew S. Hook, Dean; St. Stephen's Cathedral, Tabora, Tanzania, The Rt. Rev.

Elias Chakupewa, Dean, The Rev. Canon Rogers Kashimba, Sub Dean, Rev. Lucas

Ngassa, Curate; The Cathedral of the Good Shepherd, Lima, Peru, The Very Rev.

John Park, Dean; Birthday of The Rev. Richard A. Pugliese, Topsham, ME.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Phyllis & Dave Halt's anniversary.

Monday, May 7

Colossians 1:9-14 *For he has reduced us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.* (vv.13-14 NIV)

Redemption is what we receive when redeem happens because of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Ponder that for a bit.

I always understood the facts about Christ dying on the cross for me to cleanse me of my sins and to give me eternal life in him. My vision was: Jesus as

Kinsman-Redeemer offering himself in exchange for my bad stuff. He took that bad stuff, providing me freedom, allowing me to make new life choices in him, and offering me an open invitation to repent again—whenever. Although there is some accuracy in those facts, I had the wrong focus.

Several Easters ago, in the thinking of the amazing love of my suffering Redeemer, I experienced his love. Experiencing his love and thinking about his love are *not* the same thing. Experiencing his love brings me life, allows me to share it with others, and makes me crave more. My prayer is that we all continue to grow in the experiential love of Christ, in us and around us, always and in all ways.

Leviticus 25:35-55; Psalm 80; Matthew 13:1-16

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Chicago - (Province V, The Episcopal Church) The Rt Revd Jeffrey Lee

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Grant us, we pray, Almighty God, that we may always believe in your only begotten son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Tuesday, May 8

1 Timothy 2:1-6 *Pray especially for rulers and their governments to rule well so we can be quietly about our business of living simple, in humble contemplation.*
(v.2 The Message)

Paul is reminding us we can help God change the world through prayer. Then, he asks us to pray for our rulers and their governments—not to accomplish their desires, but the desires of God’s heart and will.

Consider your own current national and local political scene. Do you see harmony, transformation, thought sharing, finding common ground, honesty, legislation that makes your world a better place by focusing on the will and heart of God? If so, thank you for praying. If not, let’s start praying with the right focus.

I appreciate Paul’s exhortation as some of the current political issues have been very divisive in my community and my friendships. Praying with the focus on God’s heart desires and will has given me much peace here. The situations are complex and confusing, but now I am trusting God and waiting on Him to guide and direct.

Leviticus 26:1-20; Psalm 78:1-39; Matthew 13:18-23

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Chichester - (Canterbury, England) The Rt Revd Martin Warner; Chichester - Horsham - The Rt Revd Mark Sowerby; Chichester - Lewes - The Revd Richard Charles Jackson

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Wedding anniversary of The Rev. Eugene A. and Janet Stormer, Springfield.

ST. MATTHEW’S: Liam Halt’s birthday.

Wednesday, May 9

Psalm 119:97-120 *I shiver in awe before you; your decisions leave me speechless with reverence.* (v.120)

Shivering awe and speechless with reverence is a God event I welcome with delight. How about you?

With my first grandchild's birth approaching, I prayed that Jesus would welcome him upon his arrival and that his parents would be aware of it. He was there, in ways that I had not asked, thought, or imagined.

During labor, an acute issue was identified requiring emergency intervention. My husband and I jumped on a 3-hour flight not knowing what awaited us. Upon landing, and on the way to the hospital, fear arose in me. How was my daughter, her husband, and their son? What would we discover at the hospital?

I prayed in that taxi and was immediately flooded with a sense of peace. Then, a small portion of a Cherubim angel's wing, with feathers moving up and down, and movement like breath in and out, covered my visual sight. Our awesome God and His angels were there.

Speechless with reverence for an awesome God is an event I pray everyone anticipates and experiences daily.

Leviticus 26:27-42; Ephesians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:41-46

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Chile - (South America) The Rt Revd Hector Zavala Muñoz, The Rt Revd Abelino Manuel Apeleo, Suffragan Bishop

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Gregory A. Tournoux, Springfield, ordination to the Priesthood.

Thursday, May 10

Matthew 28:16-20 *Then Jesus came to them and said "All authority on heaven and earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.* (vv.18-19 NIV)

My grandson was baptized recently. This phrase from the sacramental rite was imprinted on all of our hearts that day: "You are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever" (BCP). My grandson's face lit up with joy. We all rejoiced. We have all renewed our commitment to help him see and know Jesus, to whom he belongs forever.

How do we help him know and see Jesus? How do we foster the wonder and anticipation of the love and power of Jesus? We can talk about it, but how about helping him experience the love of Jesus first hand?

My daughter had such an opportunity recently. As she was watching him play, he reached for George, his 5-foot stuffed giraffe/friend, for help standing. They both promptly tumbled over with a thud. My grandson knew he was involved

in George's tumbling and was frightened and screaming for help. He needed help processing this event and reassurance that all was ok. Thankfully, my daughter was there.

May we all keep our eyes and hearts open to show the love of Christ to others and may we miss no opportunities.

Daniel 7:9-14; Psalms 8, 47; Hebrews 2:5-18

ANGLICAN CYCLE: A hymn of glory let us sing, New songs throughout the world shall ring, Christ, by a road before untrod, Ascendeth to the throne of God.

Alleluia

DIOCESAN CYCLE: M. Joan Coleman, Roseburg, Oregon, ordination to the Diaconate.

Friday, May 11

1 Samuel 2:1-10 *There is no one holy like the LORD.* (v.2a)

This verse is early in Hannah's prayer and declares God's sovereignty and thanksgiving for His provision. Hannah knew the Lord's holiness because in her anguish and grief over her inability to conceive, she prayed. Hannah was sanctified—made holy—by believing, obeying, and applying words of truth from the Lord. Hannah was the mother of Samuel: judge, priest, and prophet.

Jesus prayed for all of us just before his betrayal: "Sanctify them by your truth; your word is truth" (John 17:17).

Jesus' promise, confirmed in Hannah's testimony, opens a door for amazing opportunity in prayer. We can go straight to the Lord in prayer and hear what He wants us to know or to do. That is what God desires each of us to do—all the time.

That is the definition of a personal relationship with the Lord. And, that kind of interaction grows more intimate and precious with each interaction. Sending a thank you note to the Lord is so good. But, sitting with Him and pouring out your love and thanks is exquisite. Just see.

Psalms 85, 86; Ephesians 2:1-10; Matthew 7:22-27

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Chotanagpur - (North India) The Rt Revd B Baskey

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Lord, help us and your whole church to walk as children of the light.

Saturday, May 12

Psalms 90 *A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night.* (v.4)

This prayer from Moses is a clear reminder that God is not on my timetable. Time is different for Him. I respect His clock; His timing for me is always perfect. So, why my impatience?

Moses gives us a clue later in the Psalm: “Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days” (v.14).

I regret to admit that my impatience was a barrier to receiving the truth of this verse for many years. My focus needed to be realigned to God’s vision and perspective. I needed to open my ears and heart to trust His truths. I needed to affirm that He delights in being who He is for me. I needed to be ready for the unexpected blessings He has. As Moses says, I needed to be ready for His unfailing love every morning with singing and gladness. Being glad is the best part, for sure.

Numbers 11:16-17, 24-29; Psalm 87; Ephesians 2:11-22; Matthew 7:28—8:4
ANGLICAN CYCLE: Christ the King - (Southern Africa) The Rt Revd William Mostert

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Almighty God, to truly know you is everlasting life.

ST. MATTHEW’S: Liz & Ron Gordon’s anniversary.

by Jane Shinn

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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: George K., Alicia P.

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