

Good News Daily

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Sunday, October 28

Psalm 63 *O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.* (v.1 NRSV)

At our favorite vacation spot, we frequently travel a winding mountain road. It's fairly busy and rather narrow. The driver has to keep both eyes on the road. One day, we noticed a car parked on a bit of shoulder. Curious, we stopped there on our next trip. A pipe dripped pure water ready to be drunk or stored in jugs. It was for the use of anyone who came by.

Most travelers never notice the water source. They are not seeking for it. How true this is in our fast-moving lives. We faint for lack of the Living Water, our Lord and Savior, and he's there ready to be known all the time. Slow down. Be curious. Pay attention: "everyone who searches finds" (Matthew 7:7).

Esther 3:1-15; Psalm 98; 1 Corinthians 10:15-24; Matthew 18:15-20

ANGLICAN CYCLE: PRAY for The Church in the Province of the West Indies

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

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

Rev. Elias Chakupewa, Dean,

Rev. Canon Rogers Kashimba, Sub-dean, and the Rev. Lucas Ngassa, Curate; The

Parish of Christ The Redeemer, Areqipa, Peru, Rev'd Juan Marcos Ayala, Rector;

Richard A. Swan, Decatur, Ordination to the Priesthood.

ST. MATTHEWS: Mark Smith's birthday.

Monday, October 29

Esther 4:1-17 *"For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father's family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this."* (v.14)

Esther had been chosen to be queen. No doubt she expected to live in this role without significant change for the rest of her life. The actions of Haman cast her into a new way of seeing her life and the lives of her people. She had to move from denial, down through fear and refusal. Esther had to go deeply into her own soul for courage to act. Finally, her choice was to change or die.

The actions of other people affect us. We are also subject to the weather, nature, death, illness, and that small voice within us. But change is often unexpected. We are programmed to stay in a place we are accustomed to. We need

courage, too. Maybe our choice is not “change or die,” but it may be “change or cease to grow.”

O Constant One, may we rest in You, not rest as an escape from the changes and cares of life, but a rest in your constancy and peace.

Psalms 41, 52; Revelation 11:1-14; Luke 11:14-26

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Jalingo - (Jos, Nigeria) The Rt Revd Timothy Yahaya

DIOCESAN CYCLE: O Lord, may we live in your presence and glorify you in our daily lives.

ST. MATTHEWS: Alley Roberson’s birthday.

Tuesday, October 30

Luke 11:27-36 *“If then your whole body is full of light, with no part of it in darkness, it will be full of light as when a lamp gives you light with its rays.”* (v.36)

I love the way God acts with individuals, not just as “a group of people.” At the coming of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2:3, we read: “Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.” Each waiting person, each body, had a tongue, as of fire, resting on him or her. Perhaps Jesus was looking ahead to Pentecost when he speaks of a whole body being full of light.

In our own strength, we cannot generate light, but a clean vessel can allow the light of the Holy Spirit to give light to all those around us. When we refuse to allow our lives to be used for God’s purposes, darkness dims our effectiveness.

Evelyn Underhill says it well: “Ye are the light of the world—but only because you are enkindled, made radiant by the one Light of the world. And being enkindled, we have got to get on with it, be useful.”

Esther 5:1-14; Psalm 45; Revelation 11:14-19

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Jamaica & The Cayman Islands - (West Indies) The Rt Revd Howard Gregory;

Jamaica - Kingston - The Rt Revd Robert Thompson; Jamaica - Mandeville - Vacant;

Jamaica - Montego Bay - The Rt Revd Leon Paul Golding; North Eastern Caribbean & Aruba - The Rt Revd L. Errol Brooks

DIOCESAN CYCLE: All Saints, Morton, Consecration of church building, 1976.

Wednesday, October 31

Psalm 119:49-72 *Your statutes have been my songs wherever I make my home.* (v.54)

A nursing home facility is often the last place some people make their “home.” I was a chaplain for several years among men and women who were in their last home. Some were not able to express or acknowledge their faith, as

illness and age-related problems had robbed them of their “songs.” But others still sang. One woman used her long times of bed rest to pray for her family, her pastor, and her church. She said it gave her a reason for living. One hymn-singing woman sat in a little rocking chair. I called it her “Jesus take me home” chair. There was peace in that room.

I led a Monday morning group. One day we blessed “old memories.” They spoke with warmth about long-ago neighbors and family members. There was joy in that room. That home, for a different season of life, was a place where I learned about the steadfastness of a faith that can see you through the pilgrimage of life. I was blessed.

Esther 6:1-13; Revelation 12:1-6; Luke 11:37-52

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Jebba - (Kwara, Nigeria) The Rt Revd Timothy Adewole

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.

ST. MATTHEWS: Rex Schaeffer’s birthday.

Thursday, November 1

Luke 11:53—12:12 *“But even the hairs of your head are all counted. Do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.”* (v.7)

When our daughter was a teenager, she baby-sat for a family who had three boys. They were close in age, and she sometimes called one by the wrong name. The boys were annoyed, and one said, “I don’t know why you get us mixed up. Our daddy never does.” And truly our Heavenly Father doesn’t get us mixed up. Each of us is of great value to Him.

Recently, I made an inventory of the ways that God’s Church and individual Christian people have been used to teach and guide me through the seasons of my life. I started with my parents and grandmother. It is humbling to realize how God has been caring for me for so long. You might try this kind of listing yourself. It led me to a time of praise and thanksgiving. “Great is His Faithfulness.”

Esther 6:14—7:10; Psalm 50; Revelation 12:7-17

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Johannesburg - (Southern Africa) The Rt Revd Stephen Mosimanegape Moreo

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Feast of Title, All Saints Episcopal Church, Morton; Sheryl L. Black, Whittington, Ordination to the Priesthood; Martha Bradley, Springfield, Ordination to the Diaconate.

ST. MATTHEWS: Bob Kohlhase’ birthday.

Friday, November 2

Psalm 40 *I have not hidden your saving help within my heart, I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation.* (v.10a)

One day, in my quiet time, I felt God speaking and I wrote in my journal, “Let your silence be in my presence and not used as an excuse when I choose for you to speak out. I’ll extrovert you when I want to.” Another person might receive this message: “I may introvert you for a while, so that in the silence you may have more hidden in your heart, out of which you shall speak.”

Maybe God is opening doors for you to speak to groups, or maybe you are telling your story one-to-one. Or perhaps you feel a need to spend time on retreat, in a listening mode. The psalmist speaks of his inward journey and his outward journey. Open yourself to both.

Esther 8:1-17; Psalm 54; Revelation 13:1-10; Luke 12:13-31

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Jos - (Jos, Nigeria) The Most Revd Benjamin Kwashi

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Lord Jesus, come, set us free to worship without fear and guide us on the pathway of peace.

Saturday, November 3

Ezekiel 20:1-17 *Moreover I gave them my sabbaths, as a sign between me and them, so that they might know that I the LORD sanctify them.* (v.12)

The Sabbath was a “sign.” It was a weekly reminder of the connection between the people of Israel and God. It was a reminder that He had chosen them. Their keeping the Sabbath as a day of rest and remembrance proved that they were choosing to be faithful.

As Christians, we have inherited the sign of setting apart one day of the week to honor and remember the Lord and all His blessings. Sunday is our connection, and we feel it as we worship. Jesus also gave us other signs. Each time we celebrate the Eucharist or Lord’s Supper “in remembrance of him,” it gives us another opportunity to make a spiritual connection with God.

And then, there is the constant sign which we have been given. We can know God intimately, minute by minute, by the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Psalm 55; Revelation 13:11-18; Luke 12:32-48

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Juba - (Loryko, South Sudan) Vacant; The Rt Revd Fraser Yugu Elias, Assistant Bishop

DIOCESAN CYCLE: The things, good Lord, that we pray for, give us the grace to labor for.

by Carolyn Byrd

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Pray for the sick and those in distress: Charlie, Jenna A., Mary, James T., Julie C., Valerie R., Barbara A., Bill B., Ms. Shayne, Diane B., Steve J., Carol D., Debbie T.

Pray for the Faithful Departed:

Pray for those living in nursing homes and other shut-ins: Dale B., 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