

Good News Daily

Volume XVIII

November 18-24, 2018

Number 46

Sunday, November 18

Habakkuk 1:1—2:1 *I will stand my watch and station myself on the ramparts; I will look to see what he will say to me, and what answer I am to give to this complaint.* (2:1 NIV)

As I study the Book of Habakkuk, I realize little change has occurred in the world. The present, just as it was in Habakkuk's day, is filled with wickedness. I'm horrified by acts of terrorism. Everyday occurrences of shootings on the streets and human trafficking are just a few of the atrocities happening day-to-day. I'm appalled when we hear of a group of teenage boys who watch a man drown without calling for help. Instead, they use their smart phones to videotape the drowning as they laugh and jeer.

We ask ourselves, "What can we do about it?" Most of us don't have an answer, or, we answer, "We can pray." But can we, like Habakkuk ask God the hard questions? I read at the beginning of this book how Habakkuk cried out against the violence, lawlessness, and injustice he saw around him; God responded by explaining His plans to judge the wicked for their sinfulness.

Our hope is in the Lord—knowing the Almighty is in control and His righteous kingdom will be ours one day.

Psalms 66, 67; Philipians 3-13—4:1; Matthew 23:13-24

ANGLICAN CYCLE: PRAY for Bermuda (Extra-Provincial to Canterbury) The Rt Revd Nicholas Dill

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Robinson, The Rev. Ann Tofani, Vicar; Nkulusi Parish, Rev. Andrea Anania, Vicar; The mission of Tariachi, Santisima Cruz De Maravillas, Peru Rev'd Luis Vizcarra.

Monday, November 19

James 2:14-26 *What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them?* (v.14)

Margaret calls me "neighbor mom." I call her "neighbor daughter." Her family outgrew the house next door and moved a few miles away. Though no longer neighbors, I continue to witness her faith and caring deeds for others. When I moved in she welcomed me with cookies and flowers.

I noticed her hair style changed every couple of years. One day, her flowing black hair was cut into a cute style hugging her face. She told me when her hair gets long, she donates it to an organization who makes wigs for children with cancer. "It feels good to do something good, to give back," she told me. "It's become my

tradition—a simple way to help someone else.” Her hair helps restore a child’s self-confidence.

In Judges 16 we read the story of Sampson, how he was chosen by God to carry out a specific part of His plan. We, too, are chosen as part of God’s plan. Samson’s hair represented his strength. Margaret’s hair gives strength to someone else—strength to fight a battle.

Habakkuk 2:1-4, 9-20; Psalm 89:1-18; Luke 16:19-31

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Karnataka Central - (South India) The Rt Revd Prasana Kumar Samuel

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Lord, helps us to see that true wisdom shows itself by simplicity, and true power shows itself by modesty.

Tuesday, November 20

Psalm 99 *Exalt the LORD our God and worship at his holy mountain; For the LORD our God is holy.* (v.9)

What one word would you use to describe God?

I was once told of a woman who was hospitalized. As I remembered the story of how she comforted herself by reciting the alphabet blessing, I decided to give it a try. I found the exercise tougher than expected. To begin with, the words flowed from my mind. God is *awesome*. God is *blessed*. God is *creator*. My list started to bog down after God is *good*, God is *holy*, God is *immortal*, and I began to skip letters, my mind drawing blanks.

In Revelation 4:8, those who surround God’s throne speak one phrase continuously, day and night. “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is and is to come.” In Isaiah’s prophesy, he sees winged seraphs and they’re calling to each other, “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory” (see Isaiah 6:3).

Even though I’m unable to complete the alphabet, I’ve concluded there is one word to describe God ranking higher than all the others. Holy.

Habakkuk 3:1-18; Psalms 97, 100; James 3:1-12; Luke 17:1-10

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Karnataka North - (South India) The Rt Revd Ravikumar J. Niranjana

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Ann H. Tofani, Mt. Carmel, Ordination to the Priesthood.

Wednesday, November 21

Luke 17:11-19 *Then he said to him, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well.”* (v.19)

My grandmother was a woman of great faith. She lost her eyesight to cataracts when I was yet a child. Dad moved her small trailer to our backyard where Mom

could care for her. There were no cataract surgeries performed at that time. Sadly, she could no longer crochet the delicate tablecloths or read her precious Bible. Each evening, as I sat at her feet reading how Jesus healed even the blind man, I started to ask, “Why not her?”

As I began to lose my young faith, Mom told me a story. She was born crippled. She raised her skirt and pointed out the unevenness below her knees. “Your grandmother wouldn’t accept me being crippled and she called in a faith healer to lay hands on me,” she said. “Her faith made me whole.”

Jesus told the leper, “Your faith has made you well.” In Luke 7:50, he told the woman anointing his feet with oil, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.” The Bible tells of many healed by the saving grace of our Lord.

Malachi 1:1, 6-14; Psalms 101, 109; James 3:13—4:12

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Karnataka South - (South India) The Rt Revd Mohan Manoraj

DIOCESAN CYCLE: O God, in my busyness of today, help me not to be so busy that I miss the most important things.

Thursday, November 22

James 4:13—5:6 *Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. (v.14)*

When I envision my life as a mist, it appears briefly then vanishes. Like the stillness over a pond in the early dawn, the mist hovers above the surface then slowly rises toward the heavens. This peaceful scene, just as our lives, is interrupted by a sudden storm.

Some might spend their later years in an assisted living home, either by choice, or...not. The home is like living in a large family. The residents represent your brothers and sisters. And like any family, there can be disagreements and arguments. Perhaps you stomp to your room and slam the door. Your life is controlled by staff and, like your parents, they tell you when to eat, when to get up, and when to go to bed. You’re free to leave...if someone drives you. And often there is gossip, even bullying in this home.

The chorus of a song says, “Lord, I offer my life to You. Everything I’ve been through, use it for Your glory.” The mist is rising. Offer your hand of friendship to your brothers and sisters.

Malachi 2:1-16; Psalm 105:1-22; Luke 17:20-37

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Kasai - Mbujimayi - (Congo) The Rt Revd Marcel Kapinga

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Thomas W. Langford, Springfield, Ordination to the Diaconate; Birthday of The Rev. Canon Timothy J. Hallett, Bloomington, IN.

Friday, November 23

James 5:7-12 *Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!* (v.9)

The word *grumble* or *grumbling* is mentioned seven times in Exodus 16. Despite the Lord's provision of manna and quail, the Israelites continued to grumble. We, too, grumble—never happy with what the Lord has provided. It appears we're a world of discontent.

Several years ago, I watched my neighbor children trudge down the driveway, backpacks and long faces in place; their faces resembled expressionless emoji with straight lines for mouths. "Have a good day," I waved. They gave me a glance and climbed into the SUV. "Not morning people," I mumbled.

It struck me how, too often, when we don't want to do something, everyone knows about it. Even though our words can be toxic when we grumble, our looks can be even more unnerving to the receiver. When I was a teenager, Mom told me daggers shot from my eyes when I was angry. And I remember *the look* given by Dad. Not a word need be spoken to grumble against another.

Whether it's words or looks, remember the Judge is standing at the door.

Malachi 3:1-12; Psalm 102; Luke 18:1-8

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Kericho - (Kenya) The Rt Revd Ernest Kiprotich Ng'eno

DIOCESAN CYCLE: We give you thanks, O God, that you have made us in your own image and redeemed us through Christ Jesus your Son

Saturday, November 24

Psalm 108 *I will praise you, LORD, among the nations; I will sing of you among the peoples. For great is your love, higher than the heavens; your faithfulness reaches the skies.* (vv.3-4)

Each morning, I stand at the open window lifting my eyes to the skies; the dawning barely visible through the leaves on the branches of the oak trees. I talk to God. I praise Him. I thank Him for blessings and birds already deep in conversation. I pray His healing hand continue to lay upon my family. I thank Him for each blooming flower and for Thanksgiving week. Thursday, Americans gathered around tables to celebrate the harvest. Although the history of Thanksgiving goes back much further, George Washington declared it a national holiday in 1789. This was designated a public day of thanksgiving and prayer.

Today is my birthday. I was born on the 4th day after Thanksgiving and the date of the 24th sometimes falls on a Thursday. Thus, the celebration of Thanksgiving always included my birthday. "My heart, O LORD, is steadfast; I will sing and make music with all my soul" (v.1).

Although Thanksgiving was set aside as a day to thank the Lord for blessings, let's not let it be the only day we praise God.

Malachi 3:13—4:6; Psalm 107:33-43; James 5:13-20; Luke 18:9-14
ANGLICAN CYCLE: Katakwa - (Kenya) The Rt Revd John Okude Omuse
DIOCESAN CYCLE: May this day be for us a day of obedience and of charity; a day of happiness and of peace and a day of Thankfulness for all that you have provided.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Grace Johns' birthday.

by Shirley J. Conley

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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., 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