

*Good News Daily*

**Volume XIX**

**January 13-19, 2019**

**Number 2**

**Sunday January 13**

Isaiah 40:1-11 *The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.* (v.8 NASB)

The Broadway musical *Come From Away* is the culmination of true stories from the passengers on planes flying to the United States on Sept. 11, 2001. The FAA closed US airspace after the tragedy and all planes from Europe were diverted to Gander, Newfoundland. Over 4,000 travelers stayed there for 5 days, which doubled the population. Among the many challenges the citizens of Gander faced, besides housing, feeding, and transporting these stranded travelers, was communication.

In one of the poignant vignettes, a bus driver is trying to communicate to an African woman who doesn't speak English. He is driving the people from the airport to a shelter. The woman is visibly anxious and scared but can only express it in her native tongue. The bus driver asks to see the Bible in her hand. He finds the Book of Psalms—which looks different than the rest of Scripture because of the formatting. By pointing out a specific psalm to her, he communicates that she need not be afraid, she will be safe. God will take care of her.

Even in different languages, Gods' word is active and alive and stands forever.

Psalms 146, 147; Hebrews 1:1-12; John 1:1-34

ANGLICAN CYCLE: **Pray for** the Anglican Church of Australia, The Most Revd Philip Leslie Freier - Archbishop of Melbourne & Primate of Australia

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. Andrew's, Edwardsville, The Rev. Joel J. Morsch, Rector; Tura Parish: Rev. Ernest Lugenzi, Tabora, Tanzania; The Mission of Jesus the Nazarene & Shalom Mission, San Juan de Miraflores, Peru, The Rev. Patricia Blanchard, Deacon-in Charge.

**Monday January 14**

Isaiah 40:12-23 *With whom did He consult and who gave Him understanding? And who taught Him in the path of justice and taught Him knowledge, and informed Him of the way of understanding?* (v.14)

My family owns a civil engineering firm. Our engineers are highly educated experts in fields I hadn't even heard of, and have many initials behind their names. I find the projects they design fascinating as they describe them in layman's terms, i.e. Analyzing how tsunami flood waters would affect a nuclear power plant to determine the best spot to build it. Once they start talking in "technical language"

I'm done. I can't begin to fathom the stuff these brilliant folks know. I would never begin to question their analysis of an engineering problem and their recommended solution.

This part of Isaiah 40 reminds us that no one taught the Lord anything. He knows it; He designed and created it all. Humans, nature, nations, emotion, science, engineering—all his creation. Why then do we doubt Him? We should trust the Lord for the big and little projects in our lives.

“Forgive me Lord when I doubt or dismiss your ability to handle my situations. I give \_\_\_\_\_ to you because I know you understand it and know what's best for me.”

Psalms 1, 2, 3; Ephesians 1:1-14; Mark 1:1-13

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Lexington (*The Episcopal Church*), The Rt Revd Mark van Koevering; Southwell & Nottingham (*England*), The Rt Revd Paul Gavin Williams, The Rt Revd Anthony Porter; Gogrial (*South Sudan*), The Rt Revd Abraham Ngor Mangong

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of The Rev Kathryn G. Jeffrey, Carbondale and of Sandy Moore, wife of The Very Rev Mark E. Evans, Lincoln; Wedding anniversary of The Rev. Cn. David M. and Elizabeth Baumann, Salem.

ST. MATTHEWS: Birthday of Brent Baughan and Harry Bray

## **Tuesday January 15**

Isaiah 40:25-31 *He gives strength to the weary, and to him who lacks might He increases power. Though youths grow weary and tired, and vigorous young men stumble badly, yet those who wait for the LORD, will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary.* (vv.29-31)

Derek Redmond was a sprinter from UK who was running in the 1992 Summer Olympics in Barcelona. During the qualifying rounds, he owned the fastest time in his heat. The race started off well and Derek thought he pretty much had it won. But in a split-second Derek's hamstring tore. He was suddenly barely able to stand. The pain was excruciating. Instead of collapsing on the track as he wanted to, Derek continued limping and stumbling toward the finish line even though he knew he had lost the race.

Jim Redmond, Derek's dad, jumped out of the stands, slipped past security, and ran out onto the track. When he reached his son, he put his arm around him and supported his weight. He half carried his son so that Derek was able to cross the finish line. It is one of the most poignant moments in all of sports history.

This passage reminds us that the Lord doesn't just help us as we limp to the finish line. He gives us renewed strength, let's us soar, run, and not grow tired. He carries us. It's even better.

Psalms 5, 6; Ephesians 1:15-23; Mark 1:14-28

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Liberia (*West Africa*), The Most Revd Jonathan Bau-Bau Bonaparte Hart; Southwest Florida (*The Episcopal Church*), The Rt Revd Dabney Smith

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of the Rev. Donald J. Schranz, Abingdon, MD.

### **Wednesday January 16**

Mark 1:29-45 *And in the early morning, while it was still dark, He arose and went out and depart to a lonely place, and was praying there. (v.35)*

Mark puts this verse in the middle of Jesus' first teaching and healing tour. Jesus gets up, goes to a quiet place, prays, and prepares for his day. It's not the only time he does this. He frequently takes time alone to pray and talk with his Father.

I learned years ago how important this time is. I prefer to do it in the morning while the house is still quiet and before I go to work. I read, journal, pray, and start my day by giving it to the Lord. It doesn't happen every day, but I try.

A Bible study series I went through last year was based on the armor of God—the breastplate of righteousness, the shield of faith, etc. In the mornings during my devotional time, I put on the helmet of salvation. It figuratively protects my head, but literally protects my mind, emotions and, hopefully, my actions.

When I take the time to get up early and go to my quiet place, my day stays focused on the Lord and everything else flows from there.

Isaiah 41:1-16; Psalm 119:1-24; Ephesians 2:1-10

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Lichfield (*England*), The Rt Revd Michael Ipgrave, The Rt Revd Geoffrey Peter Annas, The Rt Revd Clive Gregory; Southwestern Virginia (*The Episcopal Church*), The Rt Revd Mark Allen Bourlakas

DIOCESAN CYCLE: O Lord, as this day (begins) (ends), I (we) give thee thanks.

### **Thursday January 17**

Ephesians 2:11-22 *Christ came and preached peace to you outsiders and peace to us insiders. He treated us as equals, and so made us equals. Through him we both share the same Spirit and have access to the Father. (vv.17-18 The Message)*

We're in a time of division in our country: Men vs. women. Jews vs. Christians. Democrats vs. Republicans. White vs. black. Citizens vs. Immigrants. Insiders vs. outsiders. Christians vs. Muslims. It's killing us. We focus on our differences and express strong dislike and, at times, abuse toward those not like us. All that does is break us down; it doesn't protect us or build us up. Nor does it follow Jesus' command to love one another.

Jesus recognized that we are all in need a savior. We all need him. He came to save each of us. He took away our differences and made us all equal at the foot of the cross.

I pray we recognize this and treat others as equals even if we disagree with their political preferences or sexual preferences or religious beliefs. Loving one another isn't just referring to those who look like us or believe the same things we do. We are all sinners, we all need to be saved, and we all have access to the same Father.

Isaiah 41:17-29; Psalm 18:1-20; Mark 2:1-12

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Limerick & Killaloe (*Ireland*), The Rt Revd Kenneth Kearon; Spokane (*The Episcopal Church*), The Rt Revd Gretchen Rehberg

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Lord, keep us in your power.

ST. MATTHEWS: Birthday of Bradley Dyson

### **Friday January 18**

Mark 2:13-22 *Later Jesus and his disciples were at home having supper with a collection of disreputable guests. Unlikely as it seems, more than a few of them had become followers. The religious scholars and Pharisees saw him keeping this kind of company and lit into his disciples: "What kind of example is this, acting cozy with the riffraff?" (v.16)*

Years ago, while I was in full time ministry, my husband befriended one of the trainers at our gym. It was decided that we would go out as couples with him and his girlfriend one night. His girlfriend was an exotic dancer and everyone in our small town knew it. My husband really liked the trainer. They knew that I worked at a local church and didn't mind. They still wanted a night out with friends, of which they didn't have many.

There was some hesitation at first on my part, when we talked about getting together. Then I remembered this Scripture. If Jesus can hang out with "riffraff" so can I. We had a nice evening and spent some more time together as couples. I am sure we raised a few eyebrows when we were out, but it's hard to not have fun when you're bowling.

We wanted them to know that we weren't judging them. Jesus didn't love people because they were sinless. He loved them where they were in the midst of their sin. We are called to do no less.

Isaiah 42:1-17; Psalms 16, 17; Ephesians 3:1-13

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Lincoln (*England*), The Rt Revd Christopher Lawson, The Rt Revd Nicholas Alan Chamberlain, The Rt Revd David Eric Court; Springfield (*The Episcopal Church*), The Rt Revd Daniel Martins; Goma (*Congo*), The Rt Revd Kadhoro Desire Makanirwa

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Patronal Feast of St. Peter's, Chesterfield; Pray for Christian Unity.

### **Saturday January 19**

Isaiah 43:1-13 *When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you. (v.2 NLT)*

As I was reading through the designated Scripture for today's assignment to determine which one to write about, this one jumped out at me. Perhaps it was because this was also the Scripture focus of a daily devotional I receive. Okay, Lord, you are trying to teach me something here. Let's pause and reread the verse.

I have gone through rivers of difficulty before. I have felt like the river was going to swallow me up. Yes, God has saved me. It's good to remember that.

I am going through deep waters right now. Although I don't know what the future holds, the Lord does. He has promised to take care of me. The Bible is filled with incidents where God has rescued people from peril and seemingly unsolvable situations. I'm taking this as a personal reminder to me on this day that God can do the same for me.

I will ponder this Scripture for the next few days to remind me to trust in the Lord.

Psalms 20, 21:1-13; Ephesians 3:14-21; Mark 2:23—3:6

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Litoral Ecuador (*The Episcopal Church*), The Rt Revd Alfredo Morante; St Albans (*England*), The Rt Revd Alan Smith, The Rt Revd Richard Atkinson, The Rt Revd Michael Beasley; Gombe (*Nigeria*), The Rt Revd Henry Ndukuba

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Pray for Christian Unity.

*by Mara McClain*

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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., Robin L., Margret L., Christopher L.

**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