

Good News Daily

Volume XIX

January 6-12, 2019

Number 1

Sunday, January 6

Revelation 21:22-27 *I could not see any temple in the city since the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb were themselves the temple.* (v.22 NJB)

Whenever I hear or read this verse, it always brings me up short. What do you mean “no temple”? Surely in the ultimate manifestation of the kingdom of God there is going to have to be some kind of incredible, beyond all description place of worship?

I believe the author of Revelation is trying to tell us that in the full reality of the kingdom of God established, we will come to know the Lord God Almighty and the Risen and Ascended Christ face to face, forever and all eternity.

In this earthly life, we build worship spaces to help focus our minds, hearts, and souls on the reality of the Lord God Almighty and the Risen and Ascended Christ we cannot now fully grasp or know face to face. However, the New Creation will come—when divine realities our minds cannot now even comprehend will be the known reality in which we will live, move, and have our being.

There is wonder, joy, and mystery awaiting us. Alleluia!

Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalms 46, 97; Matthew 12:14-21

ANGLICAN CYCLE: **Pray for** the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia,

The Most Revd Philip Richardson - Bishop of Taranaki and Primate; The Most Revd Don Tamihere - Pihopa o Aotearora and Primate; The Most Revd Fereimi Cama - Bishop of Polynesia and Primate

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. John the Baptist, Mt. Carmel, The Rev Brant Hazlett, Rector; Milambo Parish: Rev. Emmanuel Mabula, Tabora, Tanzania; The Parish of the Most Holy Trinity & Missions, San Juan de Miraflores, Peru, The Rev. Julio Montoya, Vicar General; Birthday of Carol, wife of The Rev. Timothy A. Goodman, Johnston City.

Monday, January 7

Psalms 103 *Yahweh is tenderness and pity, slow to anger and rich in faithful love.* (v.8)

I’ve come to realize there is a decision of faith that each of us has to make in the depths of our heart, mind, and soul. It’s a “leap of faith” we have to make without having anything or anyone else to believe for us or prove the decision we make is absolutely correct.

The decision is this: Is God tenderness and pity, slow to anger and rich in faithful love, or is God stern, judgmental, punishing, and loving only if we follow the rules to the letter?

I finally decided I had to make that decision based on my own experience. My experience has been that God is tenderness and pity, slow to anger and rich in faithful love.

In the Church, since childhood, I have experienced Christians who have made the opposite choice. They treated me and others according to that decision. They leave in their wake people who are afraid of God, hurt, and unloved.

Deciding that God is love has brought me hope, joy, and the repeated gift of New Life!

Isaiah 52:3-6; Revelation 2:1-7; John 2:1-11

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Lango (*Uganda*), The Rt Revd Alfred Olwa; Southern Malawi (*Central Africa*), The Rt Revd Alinafe Kalemba; Glasgow & Galloway (*Scotland*), The Rt Revd Gregor Duncan

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Ordination to the Priesthood: Christopher L. Ashmore, Jacksonville; Donald H. Langlois, Chandler, AZ; Birthday of The Rev G. Williams Howard, III, Mt. Vernon.

ST. MATTHEWS: Mona Johnstone's birthday.

Tuesday, January 8

Psalm 118 *This is the day which Yahweh has made, a day for us to rejoice and be glad.* (v.24)

Years ago, a youth minister convinced me I should wake up each morning and thank God for "another day of life and being."

After doing that thanksgiving each day, what I then immediately thought about was everything I had to do that day, all that I had to be responsible for and, often, the unpleasant encounters with unpleasant people I would face.

About twenty years ago, I asked my Trappist spiritual guide about the prayer I began each day with and the negative thoughts that followed. He said, "John the problem with that prayer is the word 'another.' Try giving thanking God for a new day of life and being. That'll open you up to the possibilities of the day, not the responsibilities." It has worked! The prayer now opens up a new day of life and possibility for me.

Think of it! Each day God has made a new day for us, filled with the potential for new life, new hope, and new reconciliation. Now *that* is a day to rejoice and be glad about!

Isaiah 59:15-21; Psalms 117; Revelation 2:8-17; John 4:46-54

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Langtang (*Nigeria*), The Rt Revd Stanley Fube; Southern Nyanza (*Kenya*), The Rt Revd James Ochiel; Southern Nyanza, The Rt Revd John Orina Omangi

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of The Rev Timothy A. Goodman, Johnston City.

Wednesday, January 9

John 5:1-15 *Jesus said, "Do you want to be well again?" "Sir," replied the sick man, "I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is disturbed; and while I am still on the way, someone else gets down there before me."* (vv.6b-7)

Whenever I read or hear this passage of Scripture, I'm reminded of what a minister friend of mine preached about it in a sermon. He said, "It's very interesting that the long-ill man never answered Jesus' simple question, 'Do you want to be well again?' Instead, the man launched into complaining about why he couldn't be healed. How incredibly human!"

Recalling that sermon reminds me about how often when I pray, asking for our Lord to do something, I begin with complaints about what has happened to lead me to pray for help. Fortunately, the Lord, in His great love, is very patient with us.

The take away learning here is that we can simply ask the Lord for help. He already knows what has happened to lead us to ask for help in the first place. We can trust him to understand and do what is best for us!

The long-ill man didn't need the pool, he needed Jesus. Jesus is what we need. Amen!

Isaiah 63:1-5; Psalms 121, 122, 123; Revelation 2:18-29

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Lebombo (*Southern Africa*), The Rt Revd Carlos Simao Matsinhe; Southern Ohio (*The Episcopal Church*), The Rt Revd Thomas Breidenthal; Southern Philippines (*Philippines*), The Rt Revd Danilo Labacanacruz Bustamante

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Lord God, we ask for knowledge, but even more for imagination.

Thursday, January 10

John 6:1-14 *Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them to those who were sitting there; he then did the same with the fish, distributing as much as they wanted.* (v.11)

In John's account of the Miracle of the Loaves, the actions in this verse—taking, giving thanks, breaking, and distributing—are what happens each time we gather to celebrate and receive Holy Communion.

For me, the key words in this verse are "distributing as much as they wanted." We come to Holy Communion seeking to receive something—be it healing,

forgiveness, or renewal of Christ's presence and new life within and among us. We come seeking and hoping, and we all receive as much as we want!

Sunday morning Holy Communion is like any gathering of people. It's busy and active, with much to hear, see, and experience. It's never as quiet as we'd like, and the service moves by very quickly. Yet, every Sunday morning, I hope and pray that all us present, sisters and brothers in Christ, will be able to experience something of the miracle that is taking place. We are all being "ransomed, healed, restored, and forgiven" through receiving the Body and Blood of Christ!

Isaiah 65:1-9; Psalms 138, 139; Revelation 3:1-6;

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Leeds (*England*), The Rt Revd Nicholas Baines, The Rt Revd Jonathan Gibbs, The Rt Revd Helen-Ann Hartley, The Rt Revd Toby Howarth, The Rt Revd Anthony Robinson, and The Rt Revd Paul Slater

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of The Rev Dr. Daniel N. Karanja, Hampton, VA.

Friday, January 11

Psalm 150 *Let everything that breathes praise Yahweh. Alleluia!* (v.6)

Several times a week, I take a morning walk on a trail through the woods. If I get there before the foot and bicycle traffic gets too heavy, there are a of woodland creatures near the trail.

When I was a Boy Scout, our Scoutmaster taught us that if we talked to birds and animals as "real beings," rather than objects, they would often stand still—listening or even coming nearer.

Recently, I came upon a pair of tiny, beautifully marked Finches. I gently greeted them, telling them how beautiful they looked. They looked at me. As I slowly moved away, they followed for a few feet, one ever chirped a bit of a song. Thinking about this later, I thought about how different our lives would be if we treated everything that breathes, including people we dislike and disagree with, as real sharers in the same breath of life that God gives to all creatures.

Perhaps together we could sing beautiful praise to God? Alleluia!

Isaiah 65:13-16; Psalm 148; Revelation 3:7-13; John 6:15-27

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Leicester (*England*), The Rt Revd Martyn James Snow, The Rt Revd Guli Francis-Dehqani; Southern Virginia (*The Episcopal Church*), The Rt Revd Herman Hollerith; Gloucester (*England*), The Rt Revd Rachel Treweek, The Rt Revd Robert Wilfrid Springett

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Lord, we ask for protection, but even more for guidance.

Saturday, January 12

John 9:1-12, 35-38 “Neither he nor his parents sinned,” Jesus answered, “he was born blind so that the works of God might be revealed in him.” (v.3)

After learning a member of our congregation had recently suffered a severe, damaging heart attack, several parishioners were discussing his misfortune at Coffee Hour. “Well you know he ate too much red meat and fatty food,” someone said. Another replied, “Yes! And he never exercised.”

It appears that deeply rooted in our minds is the idea that disease and medical misfortune are frequently the direct result of human misbehavior and moral failure. We seem to want to find and name how the person caused their own medical problem.

Jesus was having none of this line of thought. Instead, he wanted to change the context of the conversation from who and how the man came to be blind to how the man’s blindness might reveal the powerful works and transforming love of God.

I believe what Jesus wants to create in us is a new perspective and a transformed heart and mind. A new perspective and transformation that finds in all human failure, misfortune, and suffering the potentiality that the power and love of God will be made present and manifest!

Isaiah 66:1-2, 22-23; Psalms 98, 99, 100; Revelation 3:14-22

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Lesotho (*Southern Africa*), The Rt Revd Adam Mallane Taaso; Southwark (*England*), The Rt Revd Christopher Chessun, The Rt Revd Richard Cheetham, The Rt Revd Johnathan Clark, and The Rt Revd Woyin Karowei Dorgu

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of Kiezha, wife of The Very Rev. Sean D. Ferrell, Champaign.

by John Fergusson

Used with permission from the BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP
PO Box 380, Winter Park, FL 32790
www.biblereading.org

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