

Good News Daily

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Sunday, March 24

Psalm 93 *The floods have roared like thunder; the floods have lifted their pounding waves. But mightier than the violent raging of the seas, mightier than the breakers on the shore—the LORD above is mightier than these!* (vv.3b-4 NLT)

I love what the psalmist is declaring within this passage. First, he's allowing himself to be honest—he's calling out the reality of the storm. In seasons past, I've often found myself trying to ignore the vastness of my storm. I shove it aside. I suppress whatever I'm feeling and try to push through.

However, I'm learning that it's okay to be honest. It's okay to acknowledge the weightiness of my problems. It's okay to acknowledge how "big" the issue looks and feels. *But* in all things, after I've acknowledged the reality of the situation, the psalmist teaches us to follow through with declarations of the greatness of our God!

Yes, indeed. Our God is mightier than any storm we might face. Amen.

Jeremiah 6:9-15; Psalm 96; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; Mark 5:1-20

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Pray for the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui, The Most Revd Paul Kwong - Archbishop of Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui & Bishop of Hong Kong Island

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. Stephen's, Harrisburg, The Rev. Timothy A. Goodman, Priest-in-Charge; Nsenda Parish: Rev. Gideon Kalumiye, Urambo, Tanzania; Mission of St. Mary, District of Ventanilla, Callao, Peru, The Rev. Manuel Laos, Priest in Charge. St. Paul's Carlinville, Consecration of church building, 1881; Birthday of The Rev Cn. Dale D. Coleman, Belleville; Pray for the attendees completing their Annual ECW Retreat this weekend at Toddhall.

ST. MATTHEWS: Wedding anniversary of Roger & Martha Hollis.

Monday, March 25

John 7:14-36 *Could our leaders possibly believe that he is the Messiah? But how could he be? For we know where this man comes from.* (vv.26b-27a)

Do you ever wonder how often we miss the work of God simply because of our natural explanation? Many people in Jesus' day did not recognize him as the Son of God, simply because they knew who his mother and father were.

I have to ask myself...how often do I do this? How often do I miss the supernatural presence of God in my life because I can talk myself into a logical explanation? The truth is, God is everywhere. He is in and through all things. But I believe He is looking for people believing beyond their natural explanations and seeking His presence in the unseen. In the same way it required faith for people to

believe Jesus truly was the Son of God, it also requires faith in our daily lives to find the Lord even in the mundane.

I pray we open our eyes today to see Him. He is right there waiting.

Jeremiah 7:1-15; Psalm 80; Romans 4:1-12

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Matana (*Burundi*), The Rt Revd Seth Ndayirukiye; Wad Medani (*Sudan*), The Rt Revd Saman Farajalla Mahdi; Hyderabad (*Pakistan*), The Rt Revd Kaleem John

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Ordination to the Diaconate, G. Timothy Leighton, Bloomington; Birthday of The Rev James K. Muriuki, Cape Girardeau, MO.

Tuesday, March 26

John 7:37-52 *On the last day, the climax of the festival, Jesus stood and shouted to the crowds, “Anyone who is thirsty may come to me! Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! (vv.37-38a)*

Have you ever wondered why Jesus often would speak straight to the appetites of humanity? One day I found myself pondering this question with the Lord as He revealed something to me. I felt the Holy Spirit ask me, “Janae, what often drives your behavior? What do you find yourself looking forward to in the day?” And if I’m being brutally honest, it didn’t exactly take long for me to answer that question.

I look forward to satisfying my appetite—whether food or drink or anything that carries the lure of pleasure. And, quite frankly, I think if we’re being honest with ourselves most of us would admit this to be true.

Thankfully, Jesus knew this. He spoke to our greatest longings to be satisfied. And though often we think it’s found in something tangible, we can only find the fullness of satisfaction in him.

He truly is the well that never runs dry. He is our daily bread.

Jeremiah 7:21-34; Psalm 78:1-39; Romans 4:13-25

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Matlosane (formerly Klerksdorp) (*Southern Africa*), The Rt Revd Stephen Diseko; Waiapu (*Aotearoa NZ & Polynesia*), The Rt Revd Andrew Hedge

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of The Rev Maurice C. Lee, Stone Mountain, GA.
ST. MATTHEWS: birthday of Gus Mather.

Wednesday, March 27

Romans 5:1-11 *We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment. (vv.3-5a)*

Endurance. Strength. Character. Confidence. Hope. Who in their right mind doesn’t want these qualities? Well, the unfortunate reality is no one easily coasts

their way into strengthening. It always comes with a burn. It always comes through the tearing of muscles, the sweating, and the pain.

So often we want the outcome without the pain in between. I mean, who wouldn't? We are an instant-gratifying and microwave kind of society that wants whatever's easiest. And, unfortunately, we cheat ourselves out of all that God has for us.

I'm learning that trials bring us into total dependency upon God. I'm learning that in my pain, I encounter His faithfulness—which leads me to fall in love with Him all over again. And when I love God more than anything else, I become strong. I become confident—full of character—and full of hope.

So, if this is what trials bring, bring them on.

Jeremiah 8:18—9:6; Psalm 119:97-120; John 8:12-20

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Mauritius (*Indian Ocean*), The Rt Revd Ian Gerald James Ernest, Waikato & Taranaki (*Aotearoa NZ & Polynesia*), The Most Revd Philip Richardson; Wangaratta (*Australia*), The Rt Revd John Parkes

DIOCESAN CYCLE: May God be merciful to us and bless us.

ST MATTHEWS: birthday of Pam Laws

Thursday, March 28

Psalm 42 *Why am I discouraged? Why is my heart so sad? I will put my hope in God! I will praise him again—my Savior and my God!* (vv.5-6a)

In seasons of trial and hardship, this is a passage I'll often find myself reading over and over. I have to admit, commanding your soul to put your hope in God is a whole lot easier said than done. I know for me, when I'm overcome by emotion, it takes every ounce of my being to begin to choose truth over feeling. And honestly, some days I fail to. But the more I learn about healthy living, and the more I encounter the reality of God, the easier it has become.

And though I might be completely disheartened, and everything about my circumstance yells "defeat!"—my history with God screams "HE IS FAITHFUL!" No matter what my fickle feelings might say, His faithfulness is the truth and hope I will stand upon.

Jeremiah 10:11-24; Psalms 83, 43; Romans 5:12-21; John 8:21-32

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Mbaise (*Nigeria*), The Rt Revd Chamberlain Chinedu Ogunedo; Warri (*Nigeria*), The Rt Revd Christian Ezezi Ideh

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Christ Church, Springfield, admitted to the Diocese, 1889. Ordination to the Priesthood, Timothy J. Hallett, Bloomington, IN.

Friday, March 29

Romans 6:1-11 *For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin. And since we died with Christ, we know we will also live with him.* (vv.7-8)

Life—and life abundantly. It’s what Jesus came to bring. But in an inside, upside-down kingdom, life in Jesus looks a whole lot different than what most of us would imagine.

I know for me, far too often I am seeing “life” through the lens of what I can see with my physical eyes. It looks like wealth, and adventure, and community, and external beauty, etc. —all the things the world sees as valuable. The only problem is, this couldn’t be even further from the truth of abundant life in Christ. Jesus lived completely contrary to anything this world finds as valuable. But from what I’m beginning to experience, it is far more satisfying than *anything* this world could ever bring. He brings peace, joy, and selfless love that goes beyond oneself. That is something the world cannot give.

Jeremiah 11:1-8, 14-20; Psalm 88; John 8:33-47

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Mbale (*Uganda*), The Rt Revd Patrick Gidudu; Washington (*The Episcopal Church*), The Rt Revd Mariann Edgar Budde; Ibadan (*Nigeria*), The Most Revd Joseph Akinfenwa; Ibadan North, The Rt Revd Segun Okubadejo; Ibadan South, The Rt Revd Akintunde Popoola

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Almighty God, make us gentle and courteous in word and deed.

Saturday, March 30

Psalm 90 *Lord, through all the generations you have been our home!* (v.1)

A couple of years ago, the Lord began to take me into a season of “the unknown.” I don’t know about you, but I absolutely *hate* not knowing. Not only do I feel out of control, but I often find myself in an internal panic when my mind is flooded with questions that seemingly have no answers.

I’ll never forget though—the day the Holy Spirit whispered in my ear “Janae, are you willing to let Me be your home?” It was like all of the sudden, the people, places, and things that He was so gently leading me away from no longer had a hold on me. For years these people had been my sense of belonging and my safe-place—for years that had been my home. But the Lord was longing to show me a new way.

Making Him my sense of home and belonging has been the sweetest decision of my life. He truly is the only thing that cannot be taken away from us. He is constant. He is steady. He is Home.

Jeremiah 13:1-11; Psalms 87, 90; Romans 6:12-23; John 8:47-59

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Mbamili (*Nigeria*), The Rt Revd Henry Okeke; Wau (*South Sudan*), The Most Revd Moses Deng Bol; Ibba (*South Sudan*), The Rt Revd Wilson Elias Kamani

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of the Rev. Canon Eugene A. Stormer, Springfield.

by Janae Schirle

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Pray for the sick and those in distress: Charlie, Jenna A., Mary, James T., Julie C., Bill B., Ms. Shayne, Diane B., Steve J., Carol D., Debbie T., Robin L., Margret L., Christopher L., Kim

Pray for the Faithful Departed: Barbara Allsup, Ken Barling

Pray for those living in nursing homes and other shut-ins: Dale B., Barb W., Daniel T., Bob C., 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