

## *Good News Daily*

**Volume XIX**

**October 20-26, 2019**

**Number 42**

### **Sunday, October 20**

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14 *I will be found by you,” declares the LORD, “and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you,” declares the LORD, “and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile.”* (v.14 NIV)

It's been said, "You can't go home again," meaning, if you do, you might not find yourself welcome any more, or things would have changed beyond recognition. But all the Israelites who were exiled to Babylon could think about was going home. God, in His mercy, would make that possible, after their time of punishment and discipline. I left home to go to college when I was 18 and, many years later, moved back to my home town. It truly was very different, and after living there for another 13 years, realized it would never be home again, and moved away. Truly, heaven is our only real home, for Christians. Thank God, Jesus made that homecoming possible!

Psalms 148, 149, 150; Acts 16:6-15; Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

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

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* All Saints Episcopal Church, Morton, The Rev. Matthew C. Dallman, Priest in Charge; Goweko Mission, Tanzania, Rev. Tiyishime Amon, Vicar; Mission of St. Luke, District of Cerro Colorado, Arequipa, Peru, Rev'd Ricardo Vergara, Vicar.

*ST. MATTHEW'S:* the wedding anniversary of Lynn & Kelly Gray.

### **Monday, October 21**

1 Corinthians 15:30-41 *What you sow does not come to life unless it dies.* (v.36b)

I don't even have to sow a seed to kill a plant. I confess: I'm a serial killer of potted plants, and no one should ever give them to me. Recently, a friend gave me herbs rooting in a glass of water, a clay pot, and a bag of soil to plant them in. I left the herbs in the windowsill (figured they need sunlight). Then forgot about them. They died and dried. So, I threw the herbs in a spaghetti sauce and it was delicious.

Fortunately, when God "plants us in the ground" (we die), He then "harvests" us as resurrected people, filled with new life far more glorious than any potted flower. Thanks be to God!

Jeremiah 44:1-14; Psalm 25; Matthew 11:16-24

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Raiwind (*Pakistan*) The Rt Revd Azad Marshall; Cuba (*The Episcopal Church*) The Rt Revd Griselda Delgado Del Carpio; Kubwa (*Nigeria*) The Rt Revd Duke Akamisoko.

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Birthday of The Rev. Joel J. Morsch, Bradenton, FL

**Tuesday, October 22**

Matthew 11:25-30 *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”* (v.28)

I have a chronic illness that causes pain and fatigue, so I am always tired. It doesn't matter how much sleep I get. But this is one of my favorite Bible verses, because Jesus is not so much talking about physical rest, but rest for our souls—inner peace, that unexplainable sense that everything will be all right and that God is with us.

No matter how much we might rest our bodies—even take a vacation!—if we don't have rest in our souls, we will feel “weary and burdened.” This verse helps me to remember to “Let go, and let God.”

Lamentations 1:1-12; Psalms 26, 28; 1 Corinthians 15:41-50

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Rajasthan (*North India*) The Rt Revd Darbara Singh; Cueibet (*South Sudan*) The Rt Revd Elijah Muteny Awet.

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Loving Lord Jesus, enkindle within us a keen and unquenchable longing for true holiness.

**Wednesday, October 23**

Psalms 38 *LORD, do not forsake me; be not far from me, my God.* (v.21)

This entire psalm reminds me of the laments of Job, a book we are studying in our Bible Study group. The way the psalmist moans and groans, Job could have written this. And yet, he had faith that God was with him, even in the absence of an answer from the Lord, and in the presence of abuse from his friends.

Sometimes, we, too, are between the rock of a seemingly absent God and the hard place of suffering unhelpful friends. Yet our Lord Jesus Christ promised to be with us “always, even to the end of time” (Matthew 28:20). He has not forsaken us and is not far from us. Thanks be to God!

Lamentations 2:8-15; 1 Corinthians 15:51-58; Matthew 12:1-14

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Rayalaseema (*South India*) The Rt Revd B D Prasada Rao; Cuernavaca (*Mexico*) The Rt Revd Enrique Treviño Cruz; Curitiba (*Brazil*) The Most Revd Naudal Alves Gomes (*Primate*).

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Strengthen the faith of us who believe in you, O Lord, and sow the seed of faith into the hearts of those who do not believe in you, O Lord.

**Thursday, October 24**

Ezra 1:1-11 *“Any of his people among you may go up to Jerusalem in Judah and build the temple of the LORD, the God of Israel, the God who is in Jerusalem, and may their God be with them.”* (v.3)

In this verse, I don't quite understand why the prophet Ezra appears to localize God's presence. Yes, He was (and is) the God of Israel, and the ancient Hebrews believed that He dwelt in the temple in Jerusalem. But God is everywhere, and in every place where true believers gather to worship and praise Him.

He is in the grandest European cathedral, as well as the tiniest white-clapboard chapel in rural America. But most importantly, He dwells in the "tabernacle" of our hearts, now that Jesus—as the bridge to the Father—has made possible immediate communion with God. Those ancient Israelites were called to rebuild the Jerusalem temple. It's our job to keep up the "temple" of our hearts, so God can "live" in a good house!

Psalm 37:1-18; 1 Corinthians 16:1-9; Matthew 12:15-21

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Recife (*Brazil*) The Rt Revd João Cancio Peixoto; Cuttack (*North India*) The Rt Revd Surendra Kumar Nanda.

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Birthday of The Rev. Laurie R. Kellington, The Villages, FL.  
*ST. MATTHEW'S:* Adrienne Ives' birthday.

### **Friday, October 25**

Matthew 12:22-32 *A large crowd followed him, and he healed all who were ill.* (v.15b)

We've been trying to get a healing service going at our church. In the meantime, we have prayer ministers anoint and pray for healing for any who wish, immediately after receiving Communion. It's been said that Jesus had a ministry of "mealing and healing," and having healing prayer right after partaking of Christ's Body and Blood in the Eucharist is an ultimate example of that. Our congregation is blessed to have lay persons who not only believe in the healing grace and power of God, but who obeyed His call to minister that grace to others.

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Rejaf (*South Sudan*) The Rt Revd Edward Oliver Mathew Tombe; Cyangugu (*Rwanda*) The Rt Revd Nathan Amooti Rusengo; Kuching (*South East Asia*) The Rt Revd Danald Jute, The Rt Revd Solomon Cheong Sung Voon, The Rt Revd Nelson Ugas Bulang.

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Wedding anniversary of The Rev. Michael J. and Karen Newago, Havana.

Ezra 3:1-13; Psalm 31; 1 Corinthians 16:10-24

### **Saturday, October 26**

Philemon 1-25 *Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, yet I prefer to appeal to you on the basis of love.* (vv.8-9a)

In this short little book, Paul was sending a runaway slave, Onesimus, back to his master, Philemon. Onesimus had run away to Paul, had become a Christian, and was like a brother to him. Paul wants Philemon to welcome the former slave back

without punishment. He makes an interesting distinction here—whether it is better to authoritatively coerce someone into acting, or to request that they comply, out of love. My grandma used to say, “You can catch more flies with honey than vinegar.” She was right (and so is Paul), but I had to find that out the hard way. As Christians, we are to “speak the truth in love.” Not always an easy assignment, but the right one.

Ezra 4:7, 11-24; Psalms 30, 32; Matthew 12:33-42

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Remo (*Nigeria*) The Most Revd Michael Fape; Cyprus and the Gulf (*Jerusalem & Middle East*) The Rt Revd Michael Augustine Owen Lewis; Kumasi (*West Africa*) The Most Revd Dr Daniel Sarfo (*Primate*).

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Lord, grant us the fullness of your grace, that we may obtain your promises and become partakers of your heavenly kingdom.

*ST. MATTHEW’S:* Chris Bennett’s birthday.

*by Lia Giannakis*

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**Pray for** the sick and those in distress: Charlie, Margret L., Allan H., James G.

**Pray for** the Faithful Departed: Daniel T., Justin P.

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