

Good News Daily

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March 29–April 4, 2020

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13**

Sunday, March 29

Romans 12:1-21 *Rejoice with those who rejoice, mourn with those who mourn.* (v.15 NIV)

This could be the definition of compassion down to its core and this is what Jesus did as he walked out his faith on earth with his Heavenly Father. I want to be available as His instrument of compassion. Rejoice with one another: a baby shower, a wedding, congratulations on a new job, a celebratory meal together, a hug, a simple thumbs up across the room, a note, eye contact, prayer. Mourn with one another: a note expressing heartfelt sorrow, a casserole, flowers, simply being present, a hug, cry with one another, staking ourselves beside a friend when they can't hold themselves up alone.

I have been blessed to have friends and family rejoice and mourn with me. It isn't complicated to open our hearts and walk with our sisters and brothers in joy and sadness. There is a song I love, by Brendon Heath with lyrics, "Lord give me your eyes for just one second, give me your eyes so I can see, give me your heart for the ones forgotten, give me your arms for the brokenhearted..."

Exodus 3:16—4:12; Psalm 118; John 8:46-59

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Season of Prayer and Repentance; Today, the fifth Sunday in Lent, is the focus of the Primates' Task Group's call for a period of prayer and repentance in the Anglican Communion.

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. Mark's, W. Frankfort, The Very Rev. Sherry Black, Priest-in-Charge; Muungano Parish, Tanzania: Rev. Rev. Samson Yakobo; The missions of Santa Natividad, Yarabamba, and Santas María y Martha de Betania, Ilo, Peru, Rev'd Victor Condori, Vicar.

Monday, March 30

Exodus 4:10-31 *The LORD said to him, “Who gave human beings their mouths? Who makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the LORD? Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say.”* (vv.11-12)

Every day we are offered the opportunity to replace our ways with His ways. Years ago, I worked for a man that was beyond demanding and verbally abusive to not only me and my team but his own staff as well. I would receive a text, email, or voicemail with a diatribe of negativity at all hours of the day and night. My first, most natural response was anger: “Who does this guy think he is” and my reaction in our early exchanges would be to return his acidic comments with cynicism and make sure they cut to the quick. The Lord gave me Proverbs 15:1 to ponder: “A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.” Like firing a tennis volley back and forth now, I would send back to his serving of negativity, a calm and fair answer. The gentlemen eventually began to respond with grace and what seemed to be a changed heart—at least for the time being.

Many times, when I am on the verge of exploding angrily, the Lord works on me to return the negativity with a soft answer. The Lord teaches me this lesson every day. Proverbs 18:1 says, “Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.”

Psalm 31; 1 Corinthians 14:1-19; Mark 9:30-41

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

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

Tuesday, March 31

Exodus 5:1—6:1 *Afterward, Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘Let my people go, so that they may hold a festival to me in the wilderness.’”* (5:1)

Moses had difficulty speaking so God promised that Aaron would go with him and help him speak. Isn't that just like our God to give us a

friend or brother or sister to help us? Can you imagine Moses going into Pharaoh's chambers alone? Demanding that he let some 2 million people go? And all because their God (who Pharaoh doesn't even acknowledge) says so? Make no mistake, the one who created us to do His will knows our strengths and our weaknesses. Moses, a prophet, and Aaron, more gifted to speak, walked beside one another in strength. What a beautiful example of how God displays His Glory through us through each other's giftedness. Many times, I have told my sons to go with the other one to encourage and simply be there, or I have asked my husband, a friend, or my parents to help me with my fear or insecurity in a situation. He always provides.

Psalms 120, 121, 122, 123; 1 Corinthians 14:20-40; Mark 9:42-50
ANGLICAN CYCLE: Mbeere (Kenya), The Right Revd Moses Masamba Nthukah; Wellington (Aotearoa NZ & Polynesia), The Right Revd Justin Duckworth; Idah (Nigeria), The Right Revd Joseph Musa.
DIOCESAN CYCLE: Almighty God, make us gentle and courteous in word and deed.

Wednesday, April 1

2 Corinthians 2:14—3:6 *It is not that we are competent in and of ourselves, so as to think a good thought, as it were, by ourselves. But our ability comes from God, who has made us able to minister the new testament—not of the letter, but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. (vv.5-6 NMB)*

A dear friend of mine, Ed, was a heavy drinker and a brawler of a man before he came to know Christ. If you were to watch him after he became a Christian, you would see the light of Christ in his smile, his handshake, and his ever-present words of encouragement. Ed had a contagious, uplifting spirit leading many men to Christ, both in and out of the church, and encouraged many in the jail ministry. He was a spiritual giant but took no acclaim and never boasted of his sacrificial life.

No one knew the other back-story. Ed's wife was in an assisted living facility with Alzheimer's, and she had not acknowledged Ed or memories of Ed for many years. Faithful Ed, however, would visit and take her to lunch and push her wheelchair around the mall or a park twice

a week for years. Ed's son and grandson were weekly in and out of trouble, often involving Ed to pull them out. Yet even with these pressures, God gave him love, peace, and the ability to affect others. Ed said it was only the power of the Christ that gave him the capacity to live his life with his focus on others and not himself.

Exodus 7:8-24; Psalm 119:145-176; Mark 10:1-16

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Mbhashe (Southern Africa) The Rt Revd Elliot Williams, Wernyol (South Sudan) The Rt Revd Gabriel Kuol Garang

DIOCESAN CYCLE: J. Victor Sheldon, New Orleans, LA, ordination to the Priesthood.

ST. MATTHEW'S: The Wedding Anniversary of Julie & Chris Bennett.

Thursday, April 2

Psalm 32 *Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity, I said "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." And you forgave the guilt of my sin.* (v.5 NIV)

Repentance is key to restoring my heart to unite with Jesus. The beauty of admitting my sins to Christ and seeking forgiveness is worth every painful word! Just being relieved of the guilt is like having a boulder roll off my back. Yet, often I let pride and selfishness get in the way of humility and contriteness. It isn't fun to present our sins—it's hard to speak them out loud—and yet the peace that passes all understanding comes crashing through once we lay our burdens down. The Lord knows our hearts and is faithful to be there and forgive us—every single time.

Exodus 7:25—8:19; Psalms 131, 132, 133; 2 Corinthians 3:7-18; Mark 10:17-31

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Meath & Kildare (Ireland) The Most Revd Patricia Louise Storey, West Ankole (Uganda) The Rt Revd Johnson Twinomujuni, West Buganda (Uganda) The Rt Revd Henry Katumba-Tamale

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Give us insight, Lord, to understand and feel as others feel.

ST. MATTHEW'S: The birthday of Patty Pitts.

Friday, April 3

Psalm 22 *Our children will also serve him. Future generations will hear about the wonders of the Lord. His righteous acts will be told to those not yet born. They will hear about everything he has done.* (vv.30-31 NLT)

One big prayer that my wife prays in the morning before the sun rises, and I agree and pray throughout the day, is the opportunity to infuse the Lord and His greatness into our conversations, texts, and interactions with our sons. We are massively thankful for everything the Lord has done for us and continue to hold hope that the legacy of the Lord will be a priority to our children and our children's children.

Exodus 9:13-35; 2 Corinthians 4:1-12; Mark 10:32-45

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Medak (South India) The Rt Revd A.C. Solomon Raj, West Lango (Uganda) The Rt Revd Alfred Acur Okodi

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Show us your mercy, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.

Saturday, April 4

Psalm 144 *Praise be to the LORD my Rock, who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle.* (v.1 NIV)

He has told us that there will be hard times. He has also warned us about the enemy and the fact that spiritual warfare is a reality in a Christians life. But, as King David expresses in this verse, He trains us to fight and prepares us in our hardships to be stronger and stronger. His word and the Trinity teach us and enable us to withstand the attacks of the enemy. Train means to teach, to equip!

I am much stronger and wiser having been on my knees in difficult and fearful times than if I hadn't been through the struggles. It's sometimes hard to be thankful for them until you go through the next difficulty. I saw a saying: "They thought Noah was crazy, 'till it started raining..."

Lord, help me to embrace the difficulties and the warfare with unwavering faith and discernment.

Exodus 10:21—11:18; Psalm 137; 2 Corinthians 4:13-18; Mark 10:46-

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Melbourne (Australia) The Most Revd Philip Leslie Freier, West Missouri (The Episcopal Church) The Rt Revd Martin Field

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Jesus, illuminate and brighten the entire world.

by Lisa and Charlie Clayton III

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Pray for those sick and those in distress: Margaret L., Allan H., James G., Mark S., Karen P.

Pray for the Faithful Departed: June G.

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.