

**Rector's Ramblings**

Joy into Mourning

"Then shall the virgin rejoice in the dance, both young men and old together: for I will turn their mourning into joy, and will comfort them, and make them rejoice from their sorrow." Jeremiah 31:13 (KJV)

This verse has been an old favorite to me in times of stress and struggle, yet this week I found myself moving in the opposite direction. I have been moving from joy to mourning.

Joy in the celebration of the sacrament of Holy Matrimony between Sarah and Nick. Joy for the outpouring of love online, through the "receiving line", and at the very small reception. Watching the two of them have their first dance together as husband and wife. The joy mingled with healthy sorrow of the Father and Daughter dance and the toast. It was a beautiful morning and afternoon.

However, I had not watched the news last week, and returning to that would find that this week has been one of mourning for the events of the past two weeks in our body politic. I readily admit that I can find nothing more to say than has already been said. And so, like you, I have prayed for George and those who have died, our nation; her leaders and people, and those who are responsible for George's death. During a time of prayer, I was led to remember this verse from James that seemed to sum up how I was feeling, "Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. (4.9)

When I went back to the text and read it, it leapt off the page. However, there is much more to it than simply being afflicted and mourning as if by an external force. This verse is about my action not my emotional attitude. In the verse before this James exhorts his readers to "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded".

The solution to our societal problems, no matter what political action we take as Christians, ultimately lies in the human heart, our hearts, as we seek to be more like Jesus. We are called to accountability for our actions and our attitudes. We are to be pure in thought, word and deed. And with that call, we hear verse 9 giving us instruction to mourn and weep over our sin. If we judge rightly, we will realize that we all have need of this repentance. Not one of us is truly "pure in heart", and we all, as a nation, as a people, and as individuals need Jesus.

We cannot repent of the sins of others, but we must repent of our own. We must put aside hatred and bitterness. We must ask for forgiveness and the grace of the Holy Spirit to amend our lives. We can mourn for the state of our body politic, but if change is to occur it must be a change in our own hearts. We must turn to God and pray for a new spirit of mercy, love, and truth to wash over this land. Having done so, we must go forth to proclaim that in Christ all are valued equally as brothers and sisters. Only then will true justice and peace flourish. Then our mourning will turn to joy.

With love and blessings,

Dave+  
309-660-8515

Almighty God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favor and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP 820)

O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP 824)

**Ministry Links**

St. Matthew's Webpage  
The Episcopal Diocese of Springfield  
[Rector's Blog \(new\)](#)  
Find us on Instagram--stmatbsblm  
Twitter--@BloomingtonSt

**The Good News**

June 5, 2020



**Bishop Daniel Issues Capacity Guidance**

*As of this Sunday, 7 June, St. Matthew's is authorized to have 40 individuals present at any given service.*

**With this new information we will be returning to our regular, or normal, schedule Sunday morning. There is no need to make reservations for these services.**

**For the near future, coffee hour must take place outside, and is tough to plan on short notice. Therefore, we will not resume coffee hour this week.**

**The guidance regarding masking and singing (below) still holds at this time..**

1. All are reminded to take their own health issues into consideration when deciding whether to attend. Also, stay home if you have any symptoms that are not associated with a chronic health issue.
2. Most services will be spoken/read services. A cantor is allowed to sing, but congregants are asked to refrain.
3. All individuals who are in the building must maintain physical distance and have a face covering, unless actively leading a portion of the service.
4. Each service will have color coded seats in the Nave. Families are allowed to sit together.
5. Only the restrooms in the addition will be available for use.

**6. The 10AM service will continue to be streamed "live" on Facebook. If you are uncomfortable being in the worship space and still wish to commune, communion will still be available via the "drive-through" for 30 minutes after the service.**

**Schedule for the week beginning 7 June**

**Sunday 7:30AM Rite I Holy Eucharist**

**10:00AM Rite II Holy Eucharist (also streamed)**

**Thursday**

**7:30 AM Morning Prayer with Holy Communion**

**This week is the First Sunday after Pentecost: Trinity Sunday**

**Sunday Eucharist Outline is [here](#).**

**Full Service is [here](#).**

**Added Note: Please bring your own printed copy, or electronic device from home to avoid cross contamination in the Nave.**

Both bulletins have the music included, so there is no need to touch the hymnals.

**Outreach Opportunities ITEMS-OF-THE-MONTH**

**Advent Time**

Advent is enrolled in year 3 of a 5 year course to become a doctor. He is the son of Bishop Elias in Tanzania. In US dollars, his tuition would be \$2,273 per year. Room & Board is an additional \$1826 annually. Celebrate with the St. Matthew's family and the Outreach Committee on learning that all \$4099 has been raised/committed for this coming year's studies!

**Meals**

Thank you for the generous outpouring of support for this ministry. The freezer is quite full at this time.

We also have packages of Tender Mercies meals from Midwest Food Bank.

If you, or someone you know, need(s) a meal at this time please let us know, or stop by the office when it is open.

**The Daily Devotional Reading**

is available by clicking of the link below:  
[Good News Daily](#).

**Worship Serving Schedule**

As noted above in the Phase III Reopening/Recovery article: all servers volunteer directly with Fr. Dave for the 10AM streamed mass on Sunday.

We will resume traditional scheduling as events allow.

Thank you again, and may God bless you.

**Birthdays & Anniversaries June 7 - 13**

*Anniversaries*

Deacon Tim & Mrs. Debbie Leighton

*Birthdays*

Meghan Dyson

**Dedications for this week:**

**Trinity Sunday, June 7th**

Almighty and everlasting God, who hast given unto us thy servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of the Divine Majesty to worship the Unity: We beseech thee that thou wouldest keep us steadfast in this faith and worship, and bring us at last to see thee in thy one and eternal glory, O Father; who with the Son and the Holy Spirit livest and reignest, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

**Contact Information**

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church