

***Good News Daily***  
***St. Matthew's Episcopal Church***

**Volume XV**

**June 28-July 4, 2015**

**Number 26**

**Sunday, June 28**

Psalm 118 *This is the day that the LORD hath made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.* (v.24 ESV)

Wouldn't it be renewing if each morning we would allow the refrains of that verse to wash over us? "Grant me to make an unflawed beginning today," was the prayer of C.S. Lewis as he invited the Holy Spirit to take command of his day. He wisely counseled that if we cultivated this intimacy with God, it would lead to a contented heart, one that was resting, trusting in His care as our day unfolded. *My Jesus Calling* devotional suggests we step back from our natural fussing and fretting as our day begins and "meet God in the morning stillness while the earth is fresh with the dew of his presence." A beautiful invitation!

1 Samuel 10:1-16; Romans 4:13-25; Matthew 21:23-32

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Pray for: Osaka - (Japan) The Rt Revd Samuel Osamu Onishi

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* St. George's Episcopal Church, Belleville, The Very Rev Canon Dale Coleman, Rector; Ulowa Parish, Tanzania, The Rev. Thomas Kachila; Missionary Region of North Peru Mons. Oswaldo Vera and The Rev. Esteban Zapata, Regional Visitors; Pray for Church Camp Staff and Participants and for the 78<sup>th</sup> General Convention assembled in Salt Lake City.

*ST. MATTHEW'S:* Pray for the General Convention and our Diocesan Deputies.

**Monday, June 29**

Psalm 106:1-18 *Blessed are they who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times.* (v.3)

Jesus has been called the king of righteousness and we are anchored to him forever because he is righteous. God's promise to believers, the powerful message of the gospel, is His unflinching forgiveness of all we do that is self-righteous. He views us as we see our own children, tucking them into bed at night after a challenging day—perfect, unblemished, the recipients of our constant love. In our daily lives when we choose to embrace all that is good, all that is true, we reward God's belief in our worthiness. By carrying godliness into all we undertake we glorify Him.

1 Samuel 10:17-27; Acts 7:44—8:1a; Luke 22:52-62

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Osun - (Ibadan, Nigeria) The Rt Revd James Afolabi Popoola; Osun North East - The Rt Revd Humphery Olumakaiye

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* John R. Henry, Carlinville; William H. Moore, Jr., Wallace, NC; Thomas D. Patton, Traverse City, MI; George E. Pence, Edwardsville; ordination to the Priesthood; Ann L. Alley, Champaign; Donald E. Coventry, Decatur; Sylvia L. Howard, Mt. Vernon; Ordination to the Diaconate; Wedding anniversary of The Rev. Canon William H. and Jacque Moore, Wallace, NC; Pray for Church Camp Staff and Participants and for the 78<sup>th</sup> General Convention assembled in Salt Lake City.

*ST. MATTHEW'S:* Birthday of Liz Gordon.

**Tuesday, June 30**

Psalm 121 *I lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord who made heaven and earth.* (vv.1-2 KJV)

When I was a young adult residing in Pittsburgh, one of our wealthier dioceses purchased a stunning site for the construction of its new church. There were many parishioners eager to contribute to the stained glass windows they assumed would be the surround for the altar. The church architect, however, convinced the building committee to leave the floor-to-ceiling windows clear and to site the

church so that a range of the Allegheny Mountains could be captured instead. The kneelers at the altar were needlepointed with the first two verses of this psalm. In spring, pink and white dogwoods yielded to summer's lush greens, and then fall's splash of color was tempered by snow-covered evergreens. While this spectacle didn't honor saints or martyrs, it dramatized instead God's own handiwork—balm for our senses and souls.

1 Samuel 11:1-15; Psalms 120, 122, 123; Acts 8:1-13; Luke 22:63-71

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Ottawa - (Canada) The Rt Revd John Holland Chapman; The Rt Revd Peter Robert Coffin, Bishop Ordinary to the Canadian Armed Forces

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Wedding anniversary of The Rev. John F. and Suzanne Wall, Fredericksburg, VA; Pray for Church Camp Staff and Participants and for the 78<sup>th</sup> General Convention assembled in Salt Lake City.

*ST. MATTHEW'S:* Birthday Matt Gromer.

### **Wednesday, July 1**

Luke 23:1-12 *"He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place."* (v.5 NRSV)

Yes indeed! He stirs up the people offering them salvation and life eternal with one who loves them unconditionally—certainly a proposal to be met with skepticism then brutality. There are those who would have us believe that Jesus was just another prophet, his teachings of little consequence. Well, what a wonderful sham to have inspired the works of art, music, and architecture that have enriched our lives throughout the ages! Are we not grateful for his stirrings within Bach, da Vinci, and Christopher Wren?

Pray that mankind will ever be stirred to seek ways to glorify God.

1 Samuel 12:1-6, 16-25; Psalm 119:145-176; Acts 8:14-25

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Otukpo - (Abuja, Nigeria) The Rt Revd David Bello

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Birthday of the Rev John R. Henry, Carlinville; Pray for the 78<sup>th</sup> General Convention assembled in Salt Lake City, and for Church Camp Staff and Participants.

*ST. MATTHEW'S:* Pray for our Deputies to General Convention.

### **Thursday, July 2**

Psalm 131 *But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother; my soul is like the weaned child that is with me.* (v.2)

Many years ago when I was the mother of a preschooler, I was always delighted when my daughter chose to be in the company of a very dear and quiet television personality, Fred Rogers. This gentle soul exuded kindness as he welcomed busy little viewers into his neighborhood. He was a respite from less worthy distractions. Calming and quieting ourselves so that God can embrace our souls is no easy task in our present world, but perhaps more necessary now than ever. At the mercy of our cell phones, our computers, our pagers, our text messages, and our Facebook updates we need a respite—alone time with God so that we may begin to sense all he wants to impart to us.

1 Samuel 13:5-18; Psalms 132, 133; Acts 8:26-40; Luke 23:13-25

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Owerri - (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Dr Cyril Chukwunonyerem Okorochoa

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Birthday of the Rev. Sheryl (Sherry) L. Black, Whittington, IL; Birthday of The Rev. Canon Elliot H. Blackburn, Mason City, IA; Pray for the 78<sup>th</sup> General Convention assembled in Salt Lake City and for Church Camp Staff and Participants.

*ST. MATTHEW'S:* Anniversary of Shelley and Brad Brenneman Carter; Birthday of Phyllis Halt

### **Friday, July 3**

Psalm 142 *I pour out my complaint before him; I tell my trouble before him.* (v.2)

Martin Luther tells us the devil delights in making hearts fearful, cowardly, and timid. I imagine he loves a complainer as well. Our pastor gave us a wonderful invitation in a sermon recently. It was an invitation to return to joy, to embrace this gift which God intends for us to revel in. Too often we feel entitled to have everything “right” in our lives and, when it isn’t, our fretfulness diminishes this precious gift. God’s legacy is a good life. We can enrich this legacy by having grateful hearts, refraining from anger, and seeking ways to channel His joy in our daily lives.

1 Samuel 13:19—14:15; Psalms 140, 142; Acts 9:1-9; Luke 23:26-31

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Owo - (Ondo, Nigeria) The Rt Revd James Adedayo Oladunjoye

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Trinity, Lincoln, Admitted to the Diocese, 1871; Pray for the 78<sup>th</sup> General Convention assembled in Salt Lake City and for Church Camp Staff and Participants.

*ST. MATTHEW’S:* Pray for our Deputies to General Convention.

#### **Saturday, July 4**

Psalm 144 *Happy are the people to whom such blessings fall; happy are the people whose God is the LORD.* (v.15)

Truly God stretched forth His hand from on high when selecting the God-fearing men who would emerge as the founding leaders of our country. It is reported that George Washington spent almost as much time on his knees as on horseback, humbly seeking divine guidance for our new republic. At Appomattox, General Lee courageously dismissed his troops charging them to put aside their grievances, return to their homes, and seek God’s will in teaching their sons to be Americans. How blessed we have been by those leaders who carried God’s law in their hearts and determined early on we would be a country whose banner flew under God.

Especially today, may we reaffirm Thomas Jefferson’s prayer for the nation: “In time of prosperity fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble do not allow our trust in you to fail.”

1 Samuel 14:16-30; Psalms 137, 144; Acts 9:10-19a; Luke 23:32-43

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Oxford - (Canterbury, England) Vacant; Oxford - Buckingham The Rt Revd Dr Alan Thomas Lawrence Wilson; Oxford - Dorchester The Rt Revd Colin William Fletcher; Oxford - Reading - The Rt Revd Andrew Proud;

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* St. Paul’s, Alton, Consecration of present church building, 1857; Birthday of the Rev. David J. Boase, Godfrey; Pray for Church Camp Staff and Participants.

*ST. MATTHEW’S:* Birthday of David Halt.

*by Peggy Rogers*

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