

Good News Daily

Volume XV

October 18-24, 2015

Number 42

Sunday, October 18

Luke 10:1-12, 17-20 *“Say to them ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’”* (v.9b NIB)

For the last several years I have focused on listening to the Holy Spirit in a more deliberate manner. It is a time of change in my life and thus I am seeking more clarity and direction. I am trying to discern what I want to do versus what I should do. I’ve noticed a blossoming of my desire to welcome people into my home. My focus has become how I can help my guests be comfortable; how I can prepare my house to be welcoming. I recognize this as direction from the Holy Spirit because I feel joy and peace when I think about it.

Hospitality is an opportunity to provide a community experience where people can feel valued, helpful, and important. Community is the stage in which I can practice intentional Christian living by mirroring these values through my behavior. I see my guests feeling comfortable and loved while participating in the work and play. Through community we can feel and know *“The kingdom of God has come near.”*

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14; Psalms 148, 149, 150; Acts 16:6-15

ANGLICAN CYCLE: The Arctic – (Rupert’s Land, Canada) The Rt Revd David Parsons; Bishop Suffragan The Rt Revd Darren McCartney.

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, W. Frankfort, The Rev. Sheryl L. Black, Priest in Charge; Sikonge Mission, Tanzania, Rev. Denis Lawrence, Vicar; The Youth Home: Casa Hogar Sagrada Familia, Arequipa, Peru, Rev’d Daniel Rodriguez, Chaplain; Birthday of The Rev. Beth H. Maynard, Champaign; Feast of Title, St. Luke’s, Springfield.

ST. MATTHEW’S: Thanksgiving for the visit of Bishop Elias and Lucy Chakupewa and prayers for our joint ministry in God’s Kingdom. Birthday of Brad Brenneman.

Monday, October 19

Matthew 11:16-24 *“For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”* (vv.18-19)

Just as the Pharisees judged John and Jesus, I still hear myself judging others. As I judge my brothers and sister in the world I am building walls that stop the flow of God’s love. One person I initially judged because he had tattoos covering his arms had lived a hard life. He was acutely aware that his tattoos might get in the way of some people so he simply wore long sleeve shirts. He did not want anything to distract from the love of God. As a “wounded healer” he did powerful work for God’s kingdom. As I move forward in my journey and I become more aware of my judgments I learn to open my heart and listen and live in the moment. The wisdom of Christ is clear. The angels smile and God dances.

Jeremiah 44:1-14; Psalm 25; 1 Corinthians 15:30-41

ANGLICAN CYCLE: The Episcopal Church in South Carolina – (IV, The Episcopal Church)
The Rt Revd Charles VonRosenberg

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of the Rev. Dr. John F. Wall, Fredericksburg, VA.; Wedding anniversary of The Rev. Timothy A. and Carol Goodman, Johnston City.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Prayers for safe travels as Bishop Elias and Lucy return to Tabora, Tanzania.

Tuesday, October 20

Matthew 11:25-30 *"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."* (vv. 28-30)

My daughter-in-law is in a very difficult situation. Her family lives in the Ukraine where there is active fighting going on. She is deeply concerned about the situation yet she comforts me and reminds me that we cannot live in fear. She says, "Jean, I really have no fear. I know everything will be all right no matter what happens. This is clear in the Bible and what I have learned from you and in church."

She relies on her church, family, work, and friend communities to help her remain hopeful, and she proclaims her faith strongly. She carries a heavy burden. Through her relationship with Jesus, she allows him to lighten her burden. She is able to talk with her family often and encourage them. She respects that her father does not want to leave his farm and his country. She humbles me whenever I am with her and I learn so much.

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

ANGLICAN CYCLE: The Murray – (South Australia, Australia) The Rt Revd John Frank Ford

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Lord, help me not be too busy to listen to anyone who is in trouble and to help anyone who is in difficulty.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Birthday of Kathleen Dean. Anniversary of Lynn & Kelly Gray.

Wednesday, October 21

Matthew 12:1-14 *"I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. But if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless."* (vv.6-7)

My brother has been with the same company as a mechanical engineer (many impressive job titles that I never understood) for over 30 years. He lives his faith actively. He had a recent opportunity to go to New Zealand where he planned to meet his wife and children. This was a difficult decision for him. We explored his struggle and found it was related to the importance our family places on being highly responsible with your money as well as sacrificing current pleasures for the benefit of the family's future. He decided it was far more valuable to be with his family on this adventure, both for his family's growth and his own.

I believe his decision most closely followed God's principles of love and mercy versus sacrificing and being restricted by limiting, life-diminishing rules.

Lamentations 2:8-15; Psalm 38; 1 Corinthians 15: 51-58

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Thika – (Kenya) The Rt Revd Julius Njuguna Wanyoike

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Have mercy on us, Lord. Heal our lives and your world.

ST. MATTHEW'S: For those who teach and those who learn in our Parish Christian Formation offerings.

Thursday, October 22

Matthew 12:15-21 *"I will put my Spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles. He will not wrangle or cry aloud, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets. In his name the Gentiles will hope."* (vv.18b-19, 21)

My niece recently graduated from college. She asked if we could give her advice. She was concerned about getting a job, making enough money to live on, being true to her calling (which may not be a typical 9-5 job), and other concerns. Many students are very anxious about being able to take care of themselves. There is an unwritten rule in our family that you don't come back home to live after college unless it is a dire necessity. This was based on situations where some of the past family, on both sides, never did leave the original home. Another family rule is to stay in a job or finish a commitment even if you have to sacrifice.

The parents, after prayer and discussion with others, told their daughter two things: (1) You may come home. We are always there for you. (2) If this job does not work you do not have to stay in a bad situation. Our advice was to listen to the Holy Spirit, your inner guidance, live each day fully, know that we support and love you, and share your resources with others. Mercy and hope are what are important in the kingdom, rather than rigid unbending laws.

Ezra 1:1-11; Psalm 37:1-18; 1 Corinthians 16:1-9

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Thoothukudi – Nazareth – (South India) Vacant

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.

ST. MATTHEW'S: For those who lead regular Morning Prayer.

Friday, October 23

Psalm 31 *You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me, take me out of the net that is hidden from, for you are my refuge. Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.* (vv.3-5)

I have had experiences and times in life where I felt alone and desperate and not sure how to proceed. I finally learned that I could not stuff these painful experiences of betrayal, because it would make me sick and cut off my ability to have love flow through me to others. I remember saying to the Lord that I cannot walk this way. I sobbed to Jesus. I refuse to stuff my feelings. I know I must feel the pain and not hide it from myself. I committed to walk with the Lord through this because I knew it was the only way. His presence was very real and comforting and was clearly "my rock and my fortress." He led me to people I needed to see and places I needed to go for comfort and healing. At times I would just be in the calming presence of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit directed me to other people who shared similar pain and who helped me, often unknowingly. I, in turn, was able to help others. I developed feelings of compassion that I did not know were possible. My love for my brothers and sisters in the world grew through this time and continue to grow.

Ezra 3:1-13; 1 Corinthians 16:10-24; Matthew 12:22-32

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Tirunelveli – (South India) The Rt Revd Jayaraj Christdoss

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Heavenly Father, bless those who heal and tend the sick; doctors, surgeons, nurses and care-givers.

ST. MATTHEW'S: That we may walk in the Way of the Cross.

Saturday, October 24

Psalm 32 *While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.* (v.3)

Our faith has a powerful impact on our health. There is much research supporting the impact of stress and negativity on the development of illness. When I was a teenager my dad had recently been to a seminar that talked about the mind-body connection. I had just come down with a cold. He asked what I was upset about and said this could be my soul needing to cry and I might find it helpful to look at these feelings.

Giving thanks in all things is critical for our health. God is able to redeem what appear to us at the time to be awful situations and turn them into gifts and tools for us to use in our lives. I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create ripples that continue to extend outward, impacting an unknown number of people either in a negative, diminishing manner or a positive, life-giving way.

Ezra 4:7, 11-24; Psalm 30; Philemon 1-25; Matthew 12:33-42

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Toamasina – (Indian Ocean) The Rt Revd Jean Paul Solo

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of The Rev. Laurie R. Kellington, Pekin.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Birthday of Adrienne Ives.

by Jean Hess

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