

Good News Daily

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Sunday, March 12

Psalm 29 The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses his people with peace. (v.11 NIV)

Finding peace in my life has been an elusive challenge. I keep wanting the Lord to remove my challenges and make the path to be easy. He does not say He will make the path easy. He does say He will direct my path, He will guide me through the difficulty and He will be by my side. If He were to remove all challenges, we would not grow in our faith and it would become shallow and untested. While I would rather have Him clear the obstacles, I see now the wisdom in not doing so. Life is to be spent in a daily relationship with God and in a trusting manner—giving Him due praise, honor, and glory every single day. He did not promise me an easy life. So my peace needs to come from knowing that He is there, He is beside me each and every day and He is guiding my footsteps. Knowing that, is my peace.

Jeremiah 1:1-10; Psalm 24; 1 Corinthians 3:11-23; Mark 3:31—4:9

ANGLICAN CYCLE: PRAY for Maseno South - (Kenya)
The Rt Revd Francis Abiero; Maseno West - The Rt Revd Joseph Wasonga

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Christ the King, Normal, The Rev Eugene A. Stormer, Supply Priest; Kalemela Parish: Vacant, Urambo, Tanzania; The Mission of St. Andrew and Urban Mission Cipriani, District of Puente Piedra, Lima, Peru, The Rev. Benjamin Salas, Priest in charge.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Martha Lakin and Roy Laws birthdays.

Monday, March 13

Jeremiah 1:11-19 *“Get yourself ready! Stand up and say to them whatever I command you. Do not be terrified by them, or I will terrify you before them.”* (v.17)

For much of my life I was ambitious in doing what I thought the Lord wanted me to do, never really having consulted Him. I knew my skills and I knew best where to use them, so I just went ahead and did so—probably looking back over my shoulder and saying, certainly You will bless what I have already decided to do. Oh what a fool was I. While not experiencing the peace one would expect from that type of service, I finally turned to the Lord and said, OK. I will go where You want me to go and do what You want me to do. And He did just that. In some instances, it was quite different and in some others not so different. He didn't need my skills or my decisions, He just wanted my obedience and availability. So, much like Jeremiah, God just wants us to be available and show up. He will provide the tools to accomplish His mission. It is not about us, it is all about Him and our willingness to be obedient to His calling.

Psalms 56, 57, 58; Romans 1:1-15; John 4:27-42

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Massachusetts - (Province I, The Episcopal Church) The Rt Revd Alan McIntosh Gates; The Rt Revd Gayle Harris, Bishop Suffragan

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Lord, set us free from the bondage of our sins.

Tuesday, March 14

Romans 1:16-25 *For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.* (v.20)

We are often reminded to be able to give an account of our faith or be able to defend what and why we believe. I often succumb to the notion of “political correctness” and take a pass when I know an opportunity has been presented. I am working on improving, and realize that God is prevalent in so many ways as described in this verse. It is not logical for man to think about creation and not see God. In my daily routine I now try to recognize His presence, understand His nature and to be obedient to His daily callings. One of which is to be prepared for that random encounter with someone that needs to hear the gospel. When our hearts are in the right place we can see those opportunities very clearly and we need to be comforted that God will provide the right words to say to the person we meet. Be prepared to speak and to do so with affirmation. I for one, do not want to see God’s wrath for my disobedience. Besides, eternal life is a pretty good present to give someone.

Jeremiah 2:1-13; Psalms 61, 62; John 4:43-54

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Masvingo - (Central Africa) The Rt Revd Godfrey Tawonezwi

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Ordination to the Priesthood, Mark S. Winward, Valrico, FL; Birthday of Linda Holt-Monson, widow of The Rev Edward Holt, Hot Springs Village, AR.

Wednesday, March 15

Jeremiah 3:6-18 *“Return, faithless people,” declares the LORD, “for I am your husband. I will choose you—one from a town and two from a clan—and will bring you to Zion.”* (v.14)

After reading these verses, I cannot help but think about backsliding. In so many ways, I am like Israel. It is so easy to get off track and to stop following a path centered around a daily walk with the Lord. How thankful I am that,

like Israel, the Lord says, “Return, I am merciful and I will not be angry forever.” We do not deserve such forgiveness but, by His grace, we can be forgiven. I do not take comfort in my sinful nature, but what comfort I do receive is in knowing that He forgives my sins and beckons me back into a meaningful relationship. Then, He not only forgives my sins, He forgets them as well. The steps to backsliding are not always easily identified. But when I stay in the Word, offer daily prayers, acknowledge my sins and ask for His forgiveness, I stand a better chance of not starting down that track.

Psalm 72; Romans 1:28—2:11; John 5:1-18

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Matabeleland - (Central Africa) The Rt Revd Cleophas Lunga

DIOCESAN CYCLE: O Lord God, your will is holy, loving and wise.

ST. MATTHEW'S: June McAnulty's birthday.

Thursday, March 16

John 5:19-29 *“For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it.”* (v.21)

On the surface this is a very clear account for eternal life and the ability of God to raise the dead. I take comfort in something else that is presented here. In the phrasing “the Son gives life to whom he is pleased,” I see an offer of more than just eternal life. I see an offer of a life while we wait for our eternal rest. Some might say, heaven on earth. I do not subscribe that faith is all about life after death. It can be more than that. I am not certain about all aspects of heaven, but I find comfort that I can have a little slice of it in my walk with Jesus right now. While we cannot eliminate all suffering and pain, we can experience some peace while on this earth. I feel called into a relationship

with God through Jesus and the power of His Spirit. In doing so, I feel a sense of peace in doing that and relax in the comfort that I don't have to wait for heaven to experience what a relationship with Jesus is all about.

Jeremiah 4:9-10, 19-28; Psalms 70, 71; Romans 2:12-24
ANGLICAN CYCLE: Matlosane (formerly Klerksdorp) - (Southern Africa) The Rt Revd Stephen Diseko
DIOCESAN CYCLE: Ordination to the Priesthood, David M. Baumann, Salem; and Ian Colden Wetmore, Lebanon

Friday, March 17

Psalm 69 *I sink into the miry depths, where there is no foothold. I have come into the deep waters; the floods engulf me.* (vv.2-3)

I often feel as David did in this psalm. For me, I cannot feel more alone than when engulfed with deep issues or problems. At times I feel the waters have come up to my neck. In part, Satan knows my weaknesses and uses them to get me off track. When I look back on my deepest fears, few, if any, have ever come true. I find it most difficult in the midst of deep problems to simply say, "God I trust you." Yet that is where I find myself at times. I symbolically raise my hand from time to time and simply say, "Lord take my hand." I take a day at a time and in some instances an hour at a time. If I can trust Him in the small things, then I ought to be able to trust Him in the big things. Deep problems are times for concern, but can also be times of great comfort. Join me in stretching out your hand and saying, "Lord take my hand."

Jeremiah 5:1-9; Romans 2:25—3:18; John 5:30-47
ANGLICAN CYCLE: Meath & Kildare - (Dublin, Ireland)
The Rt Revd Patricia Louise Storey
DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of Margaret, widow of The Rev James W Evans, Buffalo, NY.

ST. MATTHEW'S: James Gordon's birthday.

Saturday, March 18

John 7:1-13 *But no one would say anything publicly about him for fear of the Jews.* (v.13)

It is becoming harder and more difficult to find acceptable places to speak about one's faith. In the era of political correctness, I am torn between the notion of being told not to offend anyone and speaking what I know to be the truth about Jesus. I marvel at the notion when others speak about things being out of control but with little or no reference to the increasing trend to turn away from God in almost every aspect of life. I often want to ask, "So how is your way working out?" Given the current times, I cannot forget that I don't want to be like the crowd in verse 13...being afraid to speak out. My thought is that this predicament is going to get worse before it ever gets better. While I do not want to be offensive, I do not want to shrink into the crowd and not be willing to speak. Even in the face of persecution and resentment, I must be faithful in my willingness to share the Good News about Jesus.

Jeremiah 5:20-31; Psalms 75, 76; Romans 3:19-31

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Mbaise - (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Chamberlain Chinedu Ogunedo

DIOCESAN CYCLE: The Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Springfield, Consecration of church building, 1913; St. Paul's, Pekin, Anniversary of the Consecration of church building, 1876.

by Jim Rogers

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For the St. Matthew's Community, please remember the following in your prayers this week:

Pray for the sick and those in distress: Linda S., Reva, Jeff B., Jim T., Melissa B., Megan R., Charlie C., Carol K., Amanda D., Drew Q., Wendy R., Eric, Stephanie, Janet H., DiAnne W., Robin L., Carlos L., Charlie, Tim H. and family

Pray for those in military service:

Pray for the Faithful Departed: Ann, Rose Anne.

Pray for those living in nursing homes and other shut-ins: Dale B., Alicia P., Barb W., Daniel T.

Prayers of Thanksgiving for:

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.