

## *Good News Daily*

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### **Sunday, June 18**

Matthew 18:1-14 *Then [Jesus] said, “I tell you the truth, unless you turn from your sins and become like little children, you will never get into the Kingdom of Heaven. So anyone who becomes as humble as this little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven.”* (vv.3-4 NLT)

When I think about children, the first descriptor which leaps to mind is not usually “humble”. Delightful, energetic, trusting, joyful, and yes, loud, are all on the list before “humble”. I’ve always thought of humble as a sacrificial thing, which requires me to give up something to please God. And let’s face it: anyone who has been in a room with one toy and two kids knows that “sacrificial giving” is not their go-to place.

So what did Christ mean when he praised this child for being humble? Well, I think it’s because of one thing that children are so much more aware of than adults—they need help. Food, shelter, guidance, and love are all provided by adults. They know that they can’t exist on their own. Sometimes they rebel against that fact, but they all know it.

When Jesus encouraged us to become “as humble as this little child,” I believe he wanted us to embrace this dependence. We need Christ’s help. We cannot exist without God. “Humble” is about so much more than giving up our toys.

2 Chronicles 32:1-23; Palms 93, 96; Revelation 15:1-8

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* PRAY for Northern Territory, - (Queensland, Australia) [The Rt Revd Greg Anderson](#)

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* St. John the Baptist Church, Mt. Carmel, The Rev Brant V. Hazlett, Rector; Msonga Parish, Tanzania, The Rev. Can. Josephat Nikodem; The Mission of Santa Natividad, Yarabamba, Peru, Rev’d Victor Condori, Vicar.

*ST. MATTHEW’S:* Charlie Casperson’s birthday

### **Monday, June 19**

Luke 20:9-19 *Now Jesus turned to the people again and told them this story: “A man planted a vineyard, leased it to tenant farmers, and moved to another country to live for several years.”* (v.9)

This might shock you, but Jesus offended people. To illustrate, take this section from Luke where Jesus tells the story of the “Wicked Tenant Farmers.” This parable tells how the tenant farmers unlawfully stole the profits from the farm

entrusted to them. To this end they beat the servants the owner sent, and eventually killed the owner's beloved son rather than pay up.

This parable was an in-your-face condemnation of the temple Pharisees, who rejected the message of the prophets and ruled for their own power rather than God's. And where did Jesus preach this? On the temple steps. Right in the faces of the Pharisees.

As Christians, we are called to live in peace with others, but not when it conflicts with the truth. God sent His beloved Son to make those tenant farmers accountable. We're called to do the same—even if it offends someone.

1 Samuel 1:1-20; Psalm 80; Acts 1:1-14

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Northern Uganda - (Uganda) [The Rt Revd Johnson Gakumba](#)

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Springfield, admitted to the Diocese of Illinois, 1835; David J. Halt, Bloomington, ordination to the Priesthood; Birthday of The Rev. Dr. E Eugene Hall, Champaign; Birthday of Patricia Ann, wife of The Rev. T. Larison Phillips, Champaign.

*ST. MATTHEW'S:* Kathrine Dyson's birthday, and the wedding anniversary of Mary and Roger Hunt

## **Tuesday, June 20**

Acts 1:15-26 *So they nominated two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. Then they cast lots, and Matthias was selected to become an apostle with the other eleven.* (vv.23, 26)

This is the section of the Book of Acts I like to call "The Guy Who Wasn't Picked."

Jesus had just ascended into heaven, and the now-we-are-eleven apostles felt they needed to choose a twelfth. They decided on two candidates, Justus and Matthias, both of whom had been with them since the early days of Christ's ministry. Some traditions say that they were part of the seventy workers Jesus sent "forth as lambs in the midst of wolves" in Luke 10. But regardless of their specific backgrounds, they'd both known Jesus and were exceptional choices. So the disciples cast lots. And Justus lost.

There are times when you think God's plan for you is certain—the perfect job, an award you deserve, the dream house, etc.—only to have those plans inexplicably crumble. Those plans may have even gone forward, but not with you. And sometimes it hurts.

But while Justus might not have become an apostle, he continued to be a vital part of the young church, even (according to one tradition) becoming venerated as Saint Justus of Eleutheropolis. God's plans for you might involve temporary failure, but they never involve defeat.

1 Samuel 1:21—2:11; Psalm 78:1-39; Luke 20:19-26

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Northwest Texas - (Province VII, The Episcopal Church)

[The Rt Revd Scott Mayer](#)

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

*ST. MATTHEW'S:* Kathryn DeMeritt's birthday

### **Wednesday, June 21**

Psalm 119:97-120 *You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in your word.*  
(v.114 ESV)

Do you have a “safe place” in your life? I’m not talking so much a safe place from physical threat, but more like a place which protects your mind and heart from what Shakespeare calls “the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune.” It may be your friend. It may be when you are with your spouse or child. Heck, it may even be your church. But whatever that safe place is, I ask you now to imagine it in your mind.

Now, imagine that this safe place has been completely ripped away from you.

Many of the issues we see in the Healing Ministry can be boiled down to this one thing—a person thought they had a safe place, but that place disappeared. In some cases, the disappearing took place decades ago, but the person still holds on to the anger, bitterness, mistrust, and even grief. That is why the words of the Psalm 119 are so important. God is the ultimate “safe place”—our hiding place and our shield. He can never, ever be ripped away from us (Romans 8:38-39). If your “safe place” is anywhere except in Christ’s arms, consider relocating.

1 Samuel 2:12-26; Acts 2:1-21; Luke 20:27-40

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Northwestern Pennsylvania - (Province III, The Episcopal Church) [The Rt Revd Sean Rowe](#)

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* O God, we pray for our country and our world.

### **Thursday, June 22**

Acts 2:22-36 *“God raised Jesus from the dead, and we are all witnesses of this.”*  
(v.32 NLT)

The hit Broadway play *Hamilton: An American Musical* tells the tale of a man of questionable parentage, who rose to fame in the face of a hostile power, who founded a new movement, who died too young...okay, you probably see some comparisons to Christ’ story. But one thing which this musical highlights, and which is often overlooked in the Christian literature, is the importance of the *witnesses*.

The second chapter of Acts tells how God sent His Holy Spirit to comfort and encourage Christ’s followers. And Peter, filled with the Spirit’s power,

joyfully shouts Jesus' story to the astonished crowds. "God raised Jesus from the dead! We are the witnesses!"

Today, we Christians are the ones who tell Christ's story. We are the witnesses. Maybe we won't get a Tony award, but we do get the Holy Spirit. All things considered, that's not a bad deal.

1 Samuel 2:27-36; Psalms 34, 83; Luke 20:41—21:4

*ANGLICAN CYCLE* Norwich - (Canterbury, England) [The Rt Revd Graham James](#); Norwich - Lynn - [The Rt Revd Jonathan Meyrick](#); Norwich - Thetford - [The Rt Revd Alan Peter Winton](#)

*DIOCESAN CYCLE*: St. James' Chapel, Marion, consecration of church building, 1930; Church of the Redeemer, Cairo, consecration of present church building, 1958; Pray for Diocese of Springfield Cursillo 35, Toddhall.

*ST. MATTHEW'S*: Anne Nadakavukaren's birthday, and Anne & Matthew Nadakavukaren's anniversary

### **Friday, June 23**

Psalm 88 *You have taken away my companions and loved ones. Darkness is my closest friend.* (v.18)

Anyone who thinks the Bible is a nice or sweet book should take a look at Psalm 88. This poem is a nightmare of honesty. It starts off in despair, and gets worse. It is a scream of unfiltered, primal pain.

And yet, this psalm, like all the others, was sung as a public prayer to God. Or, to put it another way, it is something our Father wants us to sing to Him. He wants us to strip off our "happy masks" and bring Him the horrors that we have been deceived into believing we must face alone.

If you are hurting, try shouting Psalm 88 at the top of your lungs. Don't be afraid of your darkness; God isn't. As Corrie Ten Boon wrote, "There is no pit so deep, that God's love is not deeper still."

1 Samuel 3:1-21; Acts 2:37-47; Luke 21:5-19

*ANGLICAN CYCLE*: Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island - (Canada, Canada) [The Rt Revd Ronald Wayne Cutler](#)

*DIOCESAN CYCLE*: Pray for Diocese of Springfield Cursillo 35, Toddhall.

*ST. MATTHEW'S*: Patty and Jack Pitts' wedding anniversary

### **Saturday, June 24**

Luke 21:20-28 *"And there will be strange signs in the sun, moon, and stars. And here on earth the nations will be in turmoil, perplexed by the roaring seas and strange tides."* (v.25)

A few years ago a friend of mine bought a house. Now, I use the term "house" loosely, because it was in a state of utter disrepair. The walls were caked

with grime and mold. There were holes right through the roof. A raccoon lived in the attic. The place was, in short, a nightmare. I remember walking through the rooms, trying not to let my horror show on my face.

But today, this house is a neighborhood jewel-box—spacious and beautiful, full of light, with nary a raccoon in sight. This is because my friend has been flipping houses for decades. She walked into that disaster zone and saw exactly what the house could become—and knew who to call to accomplish it. She had the vision to see the bleak house’s bright future.

Today, our whole world seems a bit of a disaster zone, and too often I view the news with the same horror I felt when I walked through that derelict house. I suspect I’m not alone. But when I get overwhelmed, passages like this one in Luke give me comfort. Christ told us that the world would be in utter disrepair, but that this would lead to his return. He left us with this precious prophetic vision of the “neighborhood jewel-box” that our desperate world will become.

1 Samuel 4:1b-11; Psalms 87, 90; Acts 4:32—5:11

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Nsukka - (Enugu, Nigeria) [The Rt Revd Aloysius Agbo](#)

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Pray for Diocese of Springfield Cursillo 35, Toddhall.

*by Ruth Owen*

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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., Carlos L., Charlie, Tim H. and family, Greg P., Linda S., Phyllis P.

**Pray for those in military service:**

**Pray for the Faithful Departed:** William, Aaron

**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.