

Good News Daily

**Volume
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Sunday, September 10

Psalm 98 *O Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things.* (v.1a NRSV)

Switching channels on the television, my ears perked up when I heard and saw a scene that grabbed my attention. There were people outdoors, walking to a pond and singing a hymn as part of their baptismal tradition. They are singing, “Come thou fount of every blessing.” I can’t identify the movie or television series that I saw that day. A quick internet search revealed that the hymn, whose words were written back in 1757, has been used in the soundtracks of the show *Friday Night Lights* and the film *Heaven is for Real*. If you haven’t sung this one in a while, revisit the lyrics anew. It is a thoughtful reflection, confession, and expression of yearning for the Lord’s redemptive grace. It is moving and powerful. So, yes, let me sing to the Lord a new song, and “Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.” I will also sing again those old songs of “loudest praise.”

1 Kings 12:21-33; Psalm 63; Acts 4:18-31; John 10:31-42

ANGLICAN CYCLE: PRAY for Seychelles - (Indian Ocean) The Rt Revd James Richard Wong Yin Song

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. Stephen's Harrisburg, The Rev Timothy Goodman, Priest-in-Charge; Milambo Mission, Tanzania, Rev. Emmanuel Mabula; The Mission of The Holy Spirit, District of Independencia, Lima, Peru, The Rev. Esteban Zapata, Priest in Charge.

Monday, September 11

Mark 15:40-47 *Joseph of Arimathea...went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.* (v.42)

Joseph was able to recover the body of Jesus, so that it might be tended to with respect, properly prepared for burial, and sealed in his own tomb safely away from scavenging animals.

Today we remember the anniversary of the attack on the World Trade Center in New York City. There was also a horrible tragedy in Orlando in June of 2016 in which the lives of forty-nine souls were taken from them by an evildoer. A friend in the local media recounted her conversation with a city official after her news interview. You may be able to imagine some of the difficulty encountered by our public servants in dealing with the aftermath of the mass shooting, but this

official said that she was unprepared for the emotional impact she felt upon learning that many of the bodies went unclaimed. Fortunately, like Joseph, caring people in our community stepped forward to make sure that every victim received a proper burial.

1 Kings 13:1-10; Psalms 41, 52; Philippians 1:1-11

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Sheffield - (York, England) Vacant; Sheffield - Doncaster -
The Rt Revd Peter Burrows

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

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

Tuesday, September 12

Philippians 1:12-30 *Only live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit...*" (v.27)

Paul's high expectations sound familiar. My parents were very clear that they expected me to remember my manners when at home or away, and that they would hear about any lapses on my part. My belief in the conspiracy of adults against wayward children was reinforced by an example vividly set when I was ten and left in charge of supervising the younger children of a family friend. We were playing outside and a little boy from next door joined in. Everything was fine until a car drove past with the windows open. The neighbor boy yelled an obscenity at the driver. I knew better, but giggled. The car abruptly stopped and the driver confronted the source of the profanity, asked his name and walked home with him to talk to his parents. I know that I blushed with guilt as well. Adults are less likely to reprimand the children of strangers these days, but Paul reminds us that adults are accountable to the Lord for our behavior at all times.

1 Kings 16:23-34; Psalm 45; Mark 16:1-20

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Shinyanga - (Tanzania) The Rt Revd Charles Kija Ngusa

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Lord Jesus Christ, teach us to walk in your way more trustfully.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Ray Durham's birthday.

Wednesday, September 13

Matthew 2:1-12 *When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.* (v.10)

My religious instruction as a child was minimal. My family celebrated Christmas and Easter at home, but we did not attend worship services. Yet, I believed. I have a vivid memory as a child of asking my mother to show me the Star of Bethlehem at Christmas time. I was sure that, if I only knew where to look, I could see it shining over Israel all the way from my yard in Florida. Imagine my

disappointment when I was told that the miracle was a one-time event. But *what* a miracle!

1 Kings 17:1-24; Psalm 119:49-72; Philippians 2:1-11

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Shyira - (Rwanda) The Rt Revd Laurent Mbanda; Shyira - (Rwanda) The Revd Samuel Mugisha Mugiraneza; Shyogwe - (Rwanda) The Rt Revd Jered Kalimba

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Diocesan Synod of Illinois ratified the establishment of the Diocese of Springfield, 1877; Holy Trinity, Danville, Admitted to the Diocese of Illinois, 1866.

Thursday, September 14

Philippians 2:12-30 *Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.* (vv.12b-13)

It is uncomfortable to feel the awesome presence of the Lord working in us as we endeavor to be the person in Christ He would have us to be. There was a time when I felt beside myself with anxiety over an approaching family gathering because of the volatile temper and past unpredictable behavior of a relative and my inadequacy of dealing with it.

I sought the advice of my Vicar. He listened carefully to my fears and said, “Just be the Anne the Lord would have you to be.” I suddenly felt the weight of the burden of worry I’d been carrying lifted. I was given a gift to see my predicament in a new light. This allowed me to stop worrying about fixing a problem that I could never fix. Instead, I could focus my attention on my own salvation, that is, being who the Lord would have me to be.

1 Kings 18:1-19; Psalm 50; Matthew 2:13-23

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Sialkot - (Pakistan) The Rt Revd Alwin John Samuel
Guildford - Dorking - (Canterbury, England) [The Rt Revd Ian James Brackley](#)

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Holy Spirit, guide us in our work for the Church.

Friday, September 15

Philippians 3:1-16 *Christ Jesus has made me his own.* (v.12b)

Some days I just have to take a break from the news. The world seems in constant turmoil. In times of crisis, when things are so far from normal, we can become disoriented. Our view of the world and the people in it can be so shaken that we cannot even see our faith clearly. That is the time to remember that we have a Savior. For me, there is no way to deny him, no other path. I may be distracted from the Jesus more than I ought to be, but the truth is that I belong to him.

1 Kings 18:20-40; Psalms 40, 54; Matthew 3:1-12

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Singapore - (South East Asia) The Rt Revd Rennis Ponniah
DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. John's, Centralia, Admitted to the Diocese of Illinois, 1859; St. Thomas', Salem, Admitted to the Diocese of Illinois, 1859; Redeemer, Cairo, Admitted to the Diocese of Illinois, 1864.
ST. MATTHEW'S: Bella Levine's birthday.

Saturday, September 16

Matthew 3:13-17 *And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."* (v.17)

A childless, pet-loving friend opined, in comparing her pets to children, that at least she didn't have to worry about how they would turn out. Perhaps true, but she was also missing out on the joy of seeing one's own child mature into a fine adult.

My son is in his college years, now closer to the end of earning his degree than the beginning. When hearing about his first experience in living off-campus, my husband and I shared a knowing smile when he complained about the sub-standard cleanliness of one of the roommates. Our son even complained that he was always having to remind this fellow to pick up after himself and that he felt like he was having to be his parent. This was a welcome surprise for us. We were pleased that the habits of a middle and high school student had transformed into an adult concerned with minimal cleanliness standards to keep healthy.

1 Kings 18:41—19:8; Psalm 55; Philippians 3:17—4:7

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Sittwe - (Myanmar) The Rt Revd Dr James Min Dein
DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of The Rev. Philip M. Lewis, Pueblo, CO; and of The Rev. Richard A. Swan, Decatur.

by Anne Robinson

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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., 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., Bill J.

Pray for the Faithful Departed: Mary, Stephanie

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

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.