

## *Good News Daily*

**Volume  
XVII**

**November 26-December 2, 2017**

**Number 48**

### **Sunday, November 26**

Romans 15:5-13 *May God, who gives this patience and encouragement, help you live in complete harmony with each other, as is fitting for followers of Christ Jesus.* (v.5 NLT)

I must receive before I can give. When I receive the patience and encouragement Jesus Christ has to give me, only then will I have the character to live in harmony with others. I appreciate the word “harmony” because it reminds me of music. Harmony is achieved when voices are on key and blending together to create something that is pleasing to our ear. Living in complete harmony doesn’t require that we all sing alike. Harmony comes when even with our differences we are on key with God’s Spirit so that our melody is pleasing to Him and we achieve His plans and purposes.

“When I’m far away from home and the cold wind starts to blow, when I’m empty and alone, I turn to you. When there’s hardness in my heart and I can’t see the truth, and I’m wandering in the dark, I turn to you. And here in your holy presence it’s all that I can do. I turn to you, Jesus!” (I Turn to You by Selah).

Isaiah 19:19-25; Psalm 118; Luke 19:11-27

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* PRAY for Wad Medani - (Northern, Sudan) The Rt Revd Saman Farajalla Mahdi

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* St. George's Episcopal Church, Belleville, The Rev Canon Dale Coleman, Rector; Nsenda Parish, Rev. Gideon Kalumiye, Vicar; the Missions of St. Philip, Cabanaconde, Caylloma, Peru, Rev'd Justo Maqqe Deacon;

### **Monday, November 27**

1 Peter 1:1-12 *God the Father knew you and chose you long ago, and his Spirit has made you holy. As a result, you have obeyed him and have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ. May God give you more and more grace and peace.* (v.2)

Here is another example of receiving that enables me to give. If I receive (accept) that God chose me and, because of His holiness has made me holy, then I can obey and be cleansed from my sinful nature. Being chosen, accepted, finding a home in God’s family is a privileged place above any other that I could ask for. It is better than being accepted into any club, profession, or earthly family. Because of God’s choosing I am the richest, most privileged celebrity in the kingdom.

“My Child, blessed and favored are you. I hold you in my arms, safe and secure, your life hidden in mine. Know how completely this position will satisfy your hungry heart. Be still and stay.”

Joel 3:1-2, 9-17; Psalm 106:1-18; Matthew 9:1-12

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Waiapu - (Aotearoa NZ & Polynesia) The Rt Revd Andrew Hedge,

Bishop of Waikato & Taranaki - The Most Revd Philip Richardson, Bishop of Waikato - The Rt Revd Dr Helen-Ann Hartley

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Birthday of Janet, wife of The Rev. Eugene A. Stormer, Springfield.

## **Tuesday, November 28**

Matthew 19:13-22 *The young man said to Him, “All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack? (v.20 NKJ)*

When I come to Jesus Christ and begin to trust him with my entire life, old ways don't feel comfortable any longer. Activities, entertainment, books, even some friends just don't “fit”. I'm convicted by the Spirit that unkind, judgmental thoughts and words have no place in my new life. This new life of putting God's agenda first requires a new trusting innocence. My new nature must reflect the holiness and righteousness of Christ. Kindness, compassion, and truth need to cover me.

Lord Jesus, thank you that our new life will last forever because it comes from your eternal living word and what you have accomplished on our behalf.

Nahum 1:1-13; Psalms 120, 121, 122, 123; 1 Peter 1:13-25

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Wangaratta - (Victoria, Australia) The Rt Revd John Parkes

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Birthday of The Rev. Ann L. Alley, Champaign and The Very Rev. Andrew S. Hook, Springfield.

## **Wednesday, November 29**

1 Peter 2:1-10 *But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a [special] people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies [the wonderful deeds and virtues and perfections] of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. Once you were not a people [at all], but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. (vv.9-10 AMP)*

What darkness has God brought us out of? Consider what life was like before we knew His great love for us. Now that we have accepted that Jesus has saved us by his great loving sacrifice on the cross, we can walk in the light that truth brings. The power of his resurrection gives us the constant presence of his

Spirit so that we can continue to walk in that marvelous light. We are chosen, consecrated, called. That's the Good News!

Today I celebrate my birthday. The day God planned for me to be born. He celebrates my uniqueness. His plans are perfect for me. I think I'll go skip on the beach.

Obadiah 15-21; Psalm 119:145-176; Matthew 19:23-30

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Warri - (Bendel, Nigeria) The Rt Revd Christian Ezezi Ideh

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word.

*ST. MATTHEW'S:* Birthday of Jack Pitts.

### **Thursday, November 30**

1 Peter 2:11-25 *Once you were like sheep who wandered away. But now you have turned to your Shepherd, the Guardian of your souls.* (v.25 NLT)

This comical figure of speech that Scripture often uses brings a smile to my face. To be likened to a sheep doesn't really sound like a compliment and it's not! Sheep are pretty witless. They can't defend themselves. They often fall over and can't get up without assistance. Sheep never walk in a straight line. If they "wander away" they can't get back without someone leading them. It's no wonder God calls himself a Shepherd, the Guardian of my soul. I wander away to many distractions: food, entertainment, people, even ministry can be a distraction if it's not lead by the Spirit. So today my prayer is: Lord Jesus, my Shepherd, I am sorry for wandering, I want to only follow you. I ask for your protection and guidance. Please catch me if I fall and keep me walking in a straight line aware of your presence with me every moment. Thank you for all your love and peace.

Zephaniah 3:1-13; Psalms 131, 132, 133; Matthew 20:1-16

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Washington - (Province III, The Episcopal Church) The Rt Revd Mariann Edgar Budde

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* St. Luke's Springfield, Consecration of present church building, 1902; Feast of Title of St. Andrew's, Carbondale; and St. Andrew's, Edwardsville; Andrew S. Hook, Springfield, Ordination to the Priesthood; Wedding anniversary of The Rev. Maurice and Janet, Lee, Stone Mountain, GA.

### **Friday, December 1**

Isaiah 24:14-23 *They [who have escaped and remain] raise their voices, they shout for joy; They rejoice from the [Mediterranean] Sea in the majesty of the Lord. Therefore honor and glorify the Lord in the east [in the region of light], The name of the Lord, the God of Israel [honor His name], In the coastlands and islands of the [Mediterranean] Sea. From the ends of the earth we hear songs, "Glory and honor to the Righteous One!"* (vv.14-16a AMP)

Honor and glory are often words that are used for a very select few in our culture. As I write this, the Summer Olympics are just closing. We honor athletes with medals and endorsements for sought after products. Often these select few disappoint us with demonstrations of poor character, but God never disappoints. His character is forever right and true. As a response to His righteousness we are designed by God to worship Him forever.

Lord, I am so grateful that You are worthy of glory and honor and that You have chosen to love me. It's a love that accepts me as I am but is forever transforming me into who You designed me to be. I'm thankful that You are always with me. In every circumstance, You never leave. All the things that challenge me today—relationships, health, schedules—you are with me.

Psalms 140, 142; 1 Peter 3:13—4-6; Matthew 20:17-28

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Wau - (Bahr El Ghazal, Sudan) The Rt Revd Moses Deng Bol

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Paul R. Dicks, Pewaukee, WI; Daniel N. Karanja, Schertz, TX; Charles J. Reischman, Littleton, CO; and Donald J. Schroeder, Brunswick, ME; Ordination to the Priesthood.

## **Saturday, December 2**

1 Peter 4:7-19 *The end of the world is coming soon. Therefore, be earnest and disciplined in your prayers. Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins. Cheerfully share your home with those who need a meal or a place to stay. (vv.7-9 NLT)*

Wow! There's some clear directions: pray, love, share.

Today I am praying for a friend who has stage 4 cancer and his daughter, also suffering with cancer, is in her last days of this life. Lord Jesus, they need you. Please heal them in heart and body.

Loving others takes so many different forms. Today I'm taking a teenage granddaughter out to lunch. She is navigating a difficult transition in her life right now. I want to remind her of God's love and bring her hope that He has a great plan for her life.

Later I will meet a friend who is struggling financially and share some needed resources. Lord Jesus, please supply all her needs out of your abundance.

Almighty Father, please continue to show us how to pray, love, share and live a life that pleases You. Forgive us for all the times we fail to respond to Your gentle call. We want to love You with whole-heartedness, love ourselves and love others according to Your command.

Micah 7:11-20; Psalms 137, 144; Matthew 20:29-34

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Wellington - (Aotearoa NZ & Polynesia) The Rt Revd Justin Duckworth,

The Revd Canon Eleanor Sanderson, Assistant Bishop  
*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Lord Jesus Christ, as I think of all you have done for me,  
help me by your grace to become all that you would have me to be.

*by Charlene Laird*

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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: Charlie, Tim H. and family, Greg P., Linda S., Phyllis P., Bill J., Ron G., Bill, Bobbi, Matt, Tori B., Dave M., Bill Mc., Linda T., Dottie T.

**Pray for** the Faithful Departed: Mary, Wendy, Steve, Lewis

**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.