

Good News Daily

Volume XVIII

January 28-February 3, 2018

Number 4

Sunday, January 28

Galatians 5:13-25 *For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." (v.14 NLT)*

Love my neighbor as myself. How? What are the ways to put love into action and not get lost in my own woundedness and neediness? So many give love only to get love.

Galatians 5 continues to teach: "let the Holy Spirit guide your lives" (16a); "the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions" (v.17b); "But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives; love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" (v.22b).

Again, Scripture is our teacher. I can't love on my own. It's Christ in me; it's the Spirit in me. My job is to listen and obey. To be empowered I must receive the love of the Lord, love Him back, and pass that love along. First, I must receive so I have something to give.

Genesis 18:16-33; Psalms 24, 29; Mark 8:22-30

ANGLICAN CYCLE: PRAY for Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil; The Most Revd Francisco De Assis Da Silva Primate of Brazil & Bishop of South-Western Brazil

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Glen Carbon, The Rev. Anthony F.M. Clavier, Vicar; Ng'ambo Parish: Rev. Naftari Mathew, Tabora, Tanzania; The Parish of Christ The Redeemer and St. Peter, San Juan de Miraflores, Peru, The Rev. Misael Varillas, Regional Vicar; Birthday of The Very Rev. Gus L. Franklin, Springfield, and Carla, widow of The Rev Canon Dr. William N. Malottke, Carol Stream.

Monday, January 29

Hebrews 11:1-12 *Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen. It gives us assurance about things we cannot see. (v.1)*

The "roll call" listed in Hebrews 11 is inspiring. The unknown and lurking dangers of Old Testament times—political intrigue, greed, unpredictable brutality, helplessness of the innocent bi-stander—surrounded God's people. Sound familiar? Many of those mentioned in Hebrews 11 and elsewhere in Scripture were like you and I, people just trying to live their lives. The ones who lived "by faith." Noah who built a boat to survive a storm not yet visible and Abraham who left

home “without knowing where he was going” (v.8), for example, are inspiring role models for us today. We can rarely turn on media without learning of—even viewing—catastrophe.

Reading Hebrews 11 to refresh the screen of my mind with the love, power, and faithfulness of God—with His wisdom that knows my needs even more and before I do—gets me through. As in Psalm 59:9b, “...for You, O God, are my fortress.”

Genesis 19:1-29; Psalms 56, 57, 58; John 6:27-40

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Antananarivo - (Indian Ocean) The Rt Revd Samoela Jaona Ranarivelo

Antananarivo - Tulear - (Indian Ocean) The Rt Revd Todd Andrew McGregor
DIOCESAN CYCLE: Trinity Church, Lincoln, Anniversary of the Consecration of Church building, 1921. Pray for the Clergy of the Diocese as they gather for the Pre-Lenten Retreat, King’s House, Belleville.

Tuesday, January 30

Psalm 61 *From the ends of the earth I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I.* (v.2 NIV)

What a powerful example David sets in the flow of this psalm! He begins this and many of his writings in confusion and anguish—his mind and heart full to the brim with fear and rejection. Yet as he pours out these overwhelming, absorbing feelings to God, he empties his heart, mind, and soul of those emotions and the lies embedded in them. And as David empties himself of those negative emotions, he makes room for truth—the power, love, and faithfulness of God who is “the rock higher than I.” David knew the necessity of pouring out his pain to the Father and then recognizing God for who He is—refuge, sanctuary, watching over us with faithful love. His path from pain to praise and thanksgiving is clear. As the old song says, let’s “Give it all to Him,” our Father, and receive back His love.

Genesis 21:1-21; Psalm 62; Hebrews 11:13-22; John 6:41-51

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Antsiranana - (Indian Ocean) The Rt Revd Theophile Botomazava

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Almighty God, to truly know you is everlasting life. Pray for the Clergy of the Diocese as they gather for the Pre-Lenten Retreat, King’s House, Belleville.

Wednesday, January 31

Genesis 22:1-18 “*God will provide a sheep for the burnt offering, my son, Abraham answered.*” (v.8a NLT)

The same Abraham who leaned on his and Sarai’s own understanding, conceiving Ishmael with Hagar, now obeys with deep faith. He walks up the

mountain with his long-awaited son carrying the wood to sacrifice that son! He ties his son and lays him on the altar; he picks up a knife...and...It's then, at the height of Abraham's obedience, God calls to him through an angel: "...now I know that you truly fear God. You have not withheld from me even your son, your only son" (v.12b).

Can I be forgiven the times I have leaned on my understanding and created Ishmael situations? Will I reply to God, "Here am I" when God calls as Abraham did (v.11b) and step out in faith—obedient to His command—relying on His truth and love? Am I willing to sacrifice what is most precious to me in obedience to the God who knows me better than I know myself?

Psalm 72; Hebrews 11:23-31; John 6:52-59

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Aotearoa - (Aotearoa NZ & Polynesia) (Vacant)

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Ordination to the Priesthood, Richard A. Pugliese, Topsham, ME; Birthday of Theresa, widow of The Rev. Canon Anthony C. Viton, Mt. Carmel. Pray for the Clergy of the Diocese as they conclude their Pre-Lenten Retreat, King's House, Belleville.

Thursday, February 1

John 6:60-71 *Simon Peter replied, "To whom would we go?"* (v.68a)

As I read through today's Scriptures—Abraham's burial plans for Sarah the end of her 127-year life (Genesis 23), God our rock and fortress from childhood to old age (Psalm 71), - stories of faith and encouragement to endure and "run the race" (Hebrews 11-12), I ask myself to whom *do* I go? And I reflect on the temptations to put people, things, and/or experiences other than God before Him.

Peter's question, "To whom would we go?" (v.68), leads me to get honest about my priorities, my sources of wisdom and comfort or avoidance. Once again, I must recommit to putting God first. I must recommit to going to my knees before reaching for my phone, to opening the Bible before getting in the car, to lift my burden to Jesus rather than comforting myself with chocolate, coffee, or shopping!

Genesis 23:1-20; Psalms 70, 71; Hebrews 11:31—12:2

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Argyll & The Isles - (Scotland) The Rt Revd Kevin Pearson

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of the Rev Donald J Schroeder, Brunswick, ME.

ST. MATTHEWS: Charlotte & Charlie Casperson's anniversary.

Friday, February 2

Hebrews 12:3-11 *"For the LORD disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child."* (v.6)

The pain of discipline followed by "a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way" (11b). How wise our heavenly Father is! A good Father who never gives up on His children; who is willing to walk with us through

those “struggles against sin” (v.4). He knows whom He created each of us to be and will lead us to be that person—if we let Him.

We can look around us and observe the messy lives of those whose earthly fathers and mothers didn’t discipline them and be thankful for a heavenly Father who loves us too much to not discipline us, and who thus leads us to “a peaceful harvest of right living.” As verse 5b tells us, “don’t make light of the Lord’s discipline, and don’t give up when he corrects you.”

Genesis 24:1-27; Psalm 69; John 7:1-13

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Arizona - (Province VIII, The Episcopal Church) The Rt Revd Kirk Smith

Arkansas - (Province VII, The Episcopal Church) The Rt Revd Larry Benfield

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Feast of Title, Emmanuel Memorial, Champaign; Birthday of the Rev Christopher L. Ashmore, Jacksonville.

Saturday, February 3

Hebrews 12:12-29, “*So take a new grip with your tired hands and strengthen your weak knees. Mark out a straight path for your feet so that those who are weak and lame will not fall but become strong.*” (vv.12-13)

A “new grip” so I can “mark out a straight path for your (my) feet.” And the added reminder and caution that my path could influence or invite another to try that choice or those choices.

I think of the many times my hands are tired and my knees weak as I move through the tasks and events—even the joys of life. But I know the goal and the destination of that “straight path.” I also know who is with me, leading me on that path. I know who will hold these tired hands and who will catch me if these weak knees fold. That’s my definition of “straight path”—one that follows straight after the Lord.

Genesis 24:28-38, 49-51; Psalms 75, 76; John 7:14-36

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Armidale - (New South Wales, Australia) The Rt Revd Richard Lewers

DIOCESAN CYCLE: God, fill us with your grace.

by Barbara Maybee

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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., Roger H. , Jack P.

Pray for the Faithful Departed: Steve, Lewis, Joseph, Kenneth

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

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