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This Week's Readings

Rector's Ramblings

Worship v. Devotion

Ok, so the "v." makes it sound as if they are opposed to one another, and that is not true. However, they are different categories, and the key difference is the place of the "perpendicular pronoun". You, know "I".

Worship is based in the concept of worth, and what is worthy is worshipped or praised. God, therefore, is the one who is worthy of our praise and has ultimate and lasting worth. Worship is a corporate act whereby God is exalted and "we unite ourselves with others to acknowledge the holiness of God, to hear God's Word, to offer prayer, and to celebrate the sacraments" (Catechism BCP 857). In worship, the most prevalent, and arguably appropriate, pronouns are "we, us, our, and you" (as in we praise you, O Lord). Hence, while we as individuals participate in worship, our individuality is subsumed under the corporate.

Devotion comes down from the Latin and carries with it the connotation of sacrifice. In fact, there is an underlying meaning of devotion as total destruction. In the Old Testament things devoted to God were either totally sacrificed, i.e. destroyed for human use, or removed from ordinary use and given over to service to God. Devotion is a personal act, and thereby the most appropriate pronoun is "I".

So, to be devoted to God, or to have devotion is to at minimum turn over a portion of our lives(time, talent, treasure) to the

The Good News

March 2, 2018



Adult Formation meets this week 3/7 at 5:30 for supper and study at 6. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd meets this week.

For Lent we will try something just a little bit different. We will study Hymns and Prayer. Each night we will discuss a couple of hymns from our Hymnal, different types of prayer, and spend time singing together and in quiet practicing prayer.

Breakfast Fellowships

Women's Breakfast meets at 8:30 on 3/10.

Men's Breakfast meets at 8:00 on 3/17.

Parish Mission Council

Meets Sunday, 3/4, at 5PM. Light Supper will be provided. Due to the PMC Meeting there will be no Evensong.

Time to Update the Directory

In the third week of March, we plan to publish a new Congregational Directory, and so it is time to gather updates and new information. We will leave 1 copy of the old directory out for you to examine - if your information is incomplete, inaccurate, or missing we ask that you fill out the reporting sheets provided. If you have a photo (.img format) to include, send it to the Office (office@stmattsbldm.org) and if you want to have a photo taken at no charge, see Gary Ploense.

Gary is taking photos for 7:30AM worshippers on Sundays (Feb. 25, March 4 and 11). He sets-up in Parish Hall immediately after worship.

service of God and growing in our faith. This is our individual commitment. We are called to be devoted individuals in the service of holiness.

And in our worship we, the devoted "I"s come together as the "We". We cannot worship alone, and our devotion means nothing without joining the "We" in worship.

Pray for me, as I pray for you during this Lenten Season,

Dave Halt, Rector
309-660-8515

Ministry Links

St. Matthew's Webpage
The Episcopal Diocese of
Springfield
Rector's Blog

Outreach Opportunities

Very Special Project

Outreach committee has decided to raise money for Mr. Advent Chakupewa. He is the son of Bishop Elias Chakupewa of Tabora, Tanzania. He is attending Catholic University of Health and Allied Sciences in Mwanza, Tanzania. The total cost per year is \$4000, upkeep included. He has wanted to do this for several years and plans to return to Tabora to practice medicine. Checks can be made out to the church with note in the memo that it is for *Outreach-Education*.

Outreach Opportunities For The Months of March and April 2018

Mid Central Community Action's (MCCA) emergency shelter, **Neville House**, provides safe harbor, assists and provides families in crisis situations with individual and group counseling for adults and children, and serves as a community resource providing awareness, advocacy, and education on the issue of domestic violence.

Neville House personnel have suggested the following necessary supplies for the shelter and its residents: women, children and occasionally men.

Personal hygiene items: full size shampoos, conditioners and body wash for men, women and children, along with bath soaps and lotions, towels and washcloths;

Clothing: women's underwear in various sizes, along with brassieres (C-cups plus); men's clothing and underwear in sizes M/L;

Shoes and/or sneakers: in a variety of sizes for men, women and children;

Laundry and Cleaning supplies; Laundry detergent, bath and kitchen cleaning products, paper towels and toilet paper;

Kitchen supplies: non-perishable items, canned soups and meats, and boxed meals for the pantry;

Gift cards and/or monetary gifts*; grocery, and other gift cards help provide fresh produce, dairy and other perishable items for the kitchen, or other resident needs. Monetary and gas cards assist in transporting residents to doctor appointments, job interviews, and/or their children to school/daycare.

Please place supplies in the Outreach baskets in the narthex and the hallway beside the fireplace. We bless and thank each and every one of you for your continued generosity to those in need in our community.

The Outreach Committee

**Please don't leave money or gift cards in the baskets. These should be clearly noted for OUTREACH and placed in the offering plates.*

Chrism Mass

Each year the clergy of the Diocese gather with the Bishop to celebrate a "Mass of Chrism". This special Mass is centered around the renewal of ordination vows for each clerical order, and the blessing of the oils used for anointing of the sick and baptism. In many ways this is the ancient picture of

the Church, Bishop surrounded by clergy and laity.

Yet, it is a service that is usually poorly attended as in most places it takes place on a week day in Holy Week. In our Diocese the service has been moved to the Saturday before Palm Sunday in the hope that the laity of the Diocese will be interested in attending.

St. Matthew's will be setting up a carpool for anyone interested in attending the service. After the Mass we will head to a local restaurant for a meal and fellowship.

A sign-up sheet is posted in the hallway.

Date: 24 March 2018

Place: St. Paul's Cathedral, Springfield

Time: 11 AM (Leave St. Matthew's at 9AM).

Return: ????

The Daily Devotional Reading

is available by clicking of the link below:

[Good News Daily](#)

Serving Schedule

4-March

7:30

Greeter: Ray Durham

Lector: Julie Bennett

E.M.: Chris Bennett

10:00

Acolyte: Christian Pitts

Lector: Valarie Jones

E.M.: Shelley Carter & Bob Kohlhase

Monday Counter: Gary McGinnis

Coffee Hour: Nona & Harlan Noel

11-March

7:30

Greeter: Doug & Dede Dyson

Lector: Mark Gibson

E.M.: Bill Johns

10:00

Acolyte: Sarah Halt

Lector: Karyn Smith

E.M.: Emily Lavikoff

Monday Counter: Susan Clerk

Coffee Hour: Valarie Jones & Kathryn Morris

St. Matthew's Schedule for the week of March 4th

Coffee Hour follows 10:00 a.m. worship in the Parish hall

Sunday-11:00 a.m.-Guild of the Holy Rosary

Sunday-5:00 p.m.-Parish Council meeting

Monday-7:00 a.m.-Morning Prayer

Monday-5:00 p.m.-Meeting of RST
Monday-5:30 p.m.-Brownies
Tuesday-7:00 a.m.-Morning Prayer
Tuesday-10:00 a.m.-Quilters
Wednesday-7:00 a.m.-Morning Prayer
Wednesday-5:30 p.m.-Simple Supper
Wednesday-6:00 p.m.-Adult Formation & Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
Thursday-7:30 a.m.-Morning Prayer and breakfast
Friday-7:00 a.m.-Morning Prayer
Friday-3:00 to 5:00 p.m.-Confession
Friday-5:30 p.m.-Stations of the Cross
Saturday-8:30 a.m.-Women's Breakfast

Office Hours: Monday through Friday: 9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.

If you have anything you would like added to the schedule or announcements in the bulletin and news letter please send an email reply to the newsletter, or call the office.

Readings for March 4, 2018

Hymns: #152, #685, #574, #641

Old Testament

Exodus 20:1-17

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work-you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Psalm 19

Caeli enarrant

1 The heavens declare the glory of God, *
and the firmament shows his handiwork.

2 One day tells its tale to another, *
and one night imparts knowledge to another.

3 Although they have no words or language, *
and their voices are not heard,

4 Their sound has gone out into all lands, *
and their message to the ends of the world.

5 In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; *
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

6 It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
and runs about to the end of it again; *
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

7 The law of the Lord is perfect
and revives the soul; *

the testimony of the Lord is sure
and gives wisdom to the innocent.

8 The statutes of the Lord are just
and rejoice the heart; *

the commandment of the Lord is clear
and gives light to the eyes.

9 The fear of the Lord is clean
and endures for ever; *

the judgments of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether.

10 More to be desired are they than gold,
more than much fine gold, *
sweeter far than honey,
than honey in the comb.

11 By them also is your servant enlightened, *
and in keeping them there is great reward.

12 Who can tell how often he offends? *
cleanse me from my secret faults.

13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;
let them not get dominion over me; *
then shall I be whole and sound,
and innocent of a great offense.

14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my
heart be acceptable in your sight, *
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

The Epistle

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

The Gospel

John 2:13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Birthdays & Anniversaries March 4 - 10

Anniversaries

Dede & Doug Dyson

Birthdays

Heather Mather

Jane Shadid

George Dyson

Roger Hunt

Collect for March 4th

Almighty God, who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever . Amen.

Contact Information

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

