

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP
PO Box 380, Winter Park, FL 32790
By *Kirsten Aufhammer*

Good News Daily
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March 17th to March 23rd

Sunday, March 17

Psalms 118 *This is the day the LORD has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.* (v.24 NLT)

Have you ever met those Christians that are happy absolutely all the time? They used to annoy me to no end. Especially as a new Christian when my circumstances still totally controlled my feelings.

I finally realized that I could keep my bad attitude, or I could discover their secret to being joyful. That is when I found the Scripture above. It began to sink in that I could choose to rejoice and be glad in each day. The choice was up to me.

I began to pray this Scripture daily to remind myself to rejoice and be glad in each day. Do I still get a bad attitude sometimes because of my circumstances? Yes, I do. But then I ask the Lord to help me find something in the midst of the troubles to rejoice in. He always shows me something. Sometimes, it is as simple as a beautiful butterfly flying by my window.

Today, I encourage you to join me in rejoicing and being glad in this day that the Lord has made.

Exodus 3:16–4:12; Romans 12:1-21; John 8:46-59

Monday, March 18

Mark 9:30-41 *After they arrived at Capernaum and settled in a house, Jesus asked his disciples, “What were you discussing out on the road?” But they didn’t answer, because they had been arguing about which of them was the greatest.* (vv.33-34)

Do you find it humorous that the people in the Bible are so human? I mean these are the men who

spent day in and day out with Jesus. The disciples! And what are they arguing about on the road? Who was the “greatest” out of all of them. And then they were too ashamed to tell Jesus what they had been discussing.

I find great comfort in knowing that even the disciples weren’t perfect. It means that there is hope for me in my walk with the Lord. In the next Scripture verse, Jesus makes a teaching moment out of their human behavior. He calls the disciples over to him telling them that the whoever wants to be first must actually be last to serve everyone else.

I don’t know about you, but it is reassuring to see that when my humanness rears its ugly head that Jesus is not surprised by my behavior. And in fact, if I listen to his voice, he will turn it into a teachable moment where I can grow in my faith.

Exodus 4:10-31; Psalm 31; 1 Corinthians 14:1-19

Tuesday, March 19

Psalms 121 *He will not let you stumble; the one who watches over you will not slumber. Indeed, he who watches over Israel never slumbers or sleeps.* (vv.3-4)

In the New Living Translation (NLT) of Psalm 121, the phrase “watches over” is used five times. It lets us know, without a doubt, that God is watching over us. And the Scripture verses above tell us that He never sleeps, not ever, as He’s watching over us.

I lived in some pretty sketchy places when I was a cocaine addict. Places where I shouldn’t have been. Places where it wasn’t safe for me to be. However, I somehow managed to survive that time in my life. For years, I never understood how. It made no sense to me. I now know and believe I am alive because God never slept or slumbered while He was watching over me. And He will do the same for you.

If you’re going through hard times, please know that our God is watching over you. He doesn’t fall asleep on the job. You might not be able to see Him or feel Him right now, but one day you will know that He was watching over you.

Exodus 5:1–6:1; Psalms 120, 122, 123; 1 Corinthians 14:20-40; Mark 9:42-50

Wednesday, March 20

2 Corinthians 2:14–3:6 *Your very lives are a letter that anyone can read by just looking at you. Christ himself wrote it—not with ink, but with God’s living Spirit; not chiseled into stone, but carved into human lives—and we publish it.* (v.3 MSG)

Have you ever thought that your life is a letter that people can read just by looking at you? When I read this Scripture the first question that popped into my head was, “What letter am I writing?”

I will be the first to admit that they probably see a bit too much of me. But I know in my heart, I truly want to be writing letters with my life that show people what Jesus has done in me. He has truly transformed my life from a deep dark pit of depression and addictions to a life filled with joy and freedom. I want my life to be a letter that reads about that transformation; so, that when people see me, they know that Jesus is the most important person in my life.

Today I invite you to join me in asking the Lord to help us write His letters to everyone in our circle of interaction. May our letters always lift people up, not tear them down. And may Jesus love others through us.

Exodus 7:8-24; Psalm 119:145-176; Mark 10:1-16

Thursday, March 21

Exodus 7:25–8:19 *Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and begged, “Plead with the LORD to take the frogs away from me and my people. I will let your people go, so they can offer sacrifices to the LORD.” “You set the time!” Moses replied. “Tell me when you want me to pray for you, your officials, and your people. Then you and your houses will be rid of the frogs. They will remain only in the Nile River.” “Do it tomorrow,” Pharaoh said.* (vv.8-10 NLT)

Prior to these verses Moses describes how the frogs were going to overflow from the Nile to be everywhere filling their homes, their beds, their ovens, their bowls, and they would even be jumping on all the

people. Now, I don’t have an issue with frogs, but I definitely don’t want them in my bed, oven, or bowls!

When I read Pharaoh’s response to Moses’ question, I was shocked. What? Why would he wait until tomorrow for the Lord to get rid of all those frogs? I would’ve been like, “Now, right this second, please!” But then I started wondering, “How many times have I waited to ask God to help me or heal me?” Maybe, I’ve been more like the Pharaoh than I’d like to admit.

I think we sometimes think something going wrong in our lives might be too small to ask God for help. However, God wants to be involved in every area of our lives. The mundane, the small, and the big. Next time we need help, let’s ask Jesus immediately instead of waiting until “tomorrow.”

Psalms 131, 132, 133; 2 Corinthians 3:7-18; Mark 10:17-31

Friday, March 22

2 Corinthians 4:1-12 *You see, we don’t go around preaching about ourselves. We preach that Jesus Christ is Lord, and we ourselves are your servants for Jesus’ sake. For God, who said, “Let there be light in the darkness,” has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ. We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves.* (vv.5-7)

Please forgive me as I have an 80’s flashback, but I promise I will bring it back around to Jesus. This Scripture always reminds me of the movie ET when the little alien’s heart would light up. Which then reminds me of the lyrics to the Neil Diamond song, Heartlight. The song tells us to turn on our heart lights, let them shine wherever we go, make it a happy glow, and let the whole world see.

The Scripture above tells us that we are “fragile clay jars containing this great treasure.” When, I read that I always think to myself, “I am a bit of cracked pot

that God has put back together.” But here is the thing, when God puts His heartlight into a cracked pot that light shines out of those cracks to light up the world around us. And we carry His light with us wherever we go bringing the glow of His love to others.

You, my friend, carry God’s heartlight within you, where are you going to shine it today?

Exodus 9:13-35; Psalm 22; Mark 10:32-45

Saturday, March 23

Psalm 144 *I wonder why you care, God— why do you bother with us at all? All we are is a puff of air; we’re like shadows in a campfire.* (vv.3-4 MSG)

I used to think that God must have made a mistake when He made me. Why on earth would He have ever created me knowing all the awful things I was going to do? And all the ways I was going to let Him and others down?

Then one day, Canon Jim Holbeck told me, “Kirsten, before the Lord created the earth, He already loved you. Canon Jim then suggested that I read Ephesians 1:4, “Long before He laid down earth’s foundations, He had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of His love, to be made whole and holy by His love.” Reading this now still makes tears well up in my eyes and a warmth fill my heart to overflowing.

Someone out there needs to hear this: You are not a mistake. The Lord chose to create you knowing everything you will do in your lifetime. Because above all else, He wants to be in relationship with you. You are the focus of His love. You are His chosen family.

Exodus 10:21—11:8; Psalm 137; 2 Corinthians 4:13-18; Mark 10:46-5

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for

The Church in Wales

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for

Emmanuel, Brook Hill - Richmond; N. Farnham - Warsaw; St. Dunstan's - McLean; St. John's - Warsaw

CURRENT PRAYER LIST

Christine, Debbie, Dianne, Dick, Ellen, Gary, Harry, James, Johnny, Kathy, Latavia, Penny, Ronnie, Steve, Walter, Susan Anderson, Janet Bailey, Joanne Beck, Jenny Grant, Liam Jackson, Ken Luehrs, BJ McCoullough’s grandchildren (Courtney and Carmen & their husbands), Nancy Russler, Janice Lee Sealy, Debbie Sharp, Marianne Simpson, May Jane Tillman, Annette Trafacante, Anne Warlick, Pat Weber, David Hunt, Cyrus S. & Family, Pop Webster, Ivana, Kelly, Annie Mae, Darnell Pierce & the Howell Family, Marge Graham, Harry Graham, Danelle, Kelly, Charles, Don, Jim, Hisson, Danelle, Andrea, Kelly Rhonda, Shaun Johnson, Geoff, Ivana, Hisson, Kelly, Rich, Toni and Franck

BIRTHDAYS

March 18th - Liz Hagerty
March 19th - Dora Holman
March 20th - Alissa Bledsoe, Michael Hubbard
March 23rd - Alexander Luong
March 24th - Calvin Harned
March 27th - Pearl Galatas
March 29th - Miles Holloran
March 30th - Steve Bradshaw, Will Farr

ANNIVERSARIES

March 17th - Sven and Kathy Rundman
March 19th - David and Jean Hunt
March 22nd - Bill and Kathie Clifton