

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP
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By Jim Rogers

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Sunday, March 19

Psalms 66 *Praise our God, all peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard: he has preserved our lives and kept our feet from slipping.* (vv.8-9 NIV)

As many say, “We live in a changing world.” Uncertainty abounds, division remains, and every where one turns there seems to be confrontation. But all of these notions are from the world. This verse reminds us that our primary task is to spread the truth about the Gospel and the good news about following Christ. The worldly news will not give us the answers. Politicians will not give us the answers. Our answers need to come from God. The best way to do this is to sing His praises each and every day and to reach out to Him in prayer.

Let your friends and neighbors know about your praise and God’s goodness. Our religious freedom is likely to come under further attack. It is up to us to not let our feet slip. Be bold in singing His praise and be brave to share the reason for your faith.

Jeremiah 14:1-9, 17-22; Psalm 67; Galatians 4:21–5:1; Mark 8:11-21

Monday, March 20

Jeremiah 16:10-21 *“My eyes are on all their ways; they are not hidden from me, nor is their sin concealed from my eyes. I will repay them double for their wickedness and their sin, because they have defiled my land with the lifeless forms of their vile images and filled my inheritance with their detestable idols.”* (vv.17-18)

Might we be facing a rebuke like what Jeremiah was encountering? The world is presenting us with many false gods. Our institutions are asking God to leave. In the end, rebellion has its consequences. Is redemption possible? Will a revival come in the near future? That might depend on us. We need to repent of our sins and turn away from what the world tells us is important. We need to keep our focus on Jesus and his call to spread the Gospel and his good news. Restoration comes after repentance. Let us keep our focus on God and His son Jesus. Study the Bible and continue to pray on a daily basis. There is a better way than the current malaise, but it will not be discerned by watching the news or listening to worldly pundits. Let’s turn our eyes and ears to Jesus for our answers.

Psalms 89:1-18; Romans 7:1-12; John 6:1-15

Tuesday, March 21

John 6:16-27 *Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.”* (vv.26-27)

Two things come to mind as I read this passage. Do not labor for the food which perishes and the term “seal the deal.” We should be encouraged in our daily life for things more spiritual than the necessities of everyday life. The disciples seemed to focus on Jesus’s miracles of feeding the 5,000 rather than the spiritual food which would last a lifetime. This passage reminds me to concentrate more on the food that provides eternal life rather than food that perishes. The second observation concerns the use of the word “seal.” God reminds us here that we should have more confidence in Jesus because God has guaranteed him. A seal was a sign of ownership, and that image remains today. We can be certain of Jesus and he reminds us to be searching for things that last.

Jeremiah 17:19-27; Psalms 97, 99, 100; Romans 7:13-25

Wednesday, March 22

Psalms 101 *I will be careful to lead a blameless life—when will you come to me? I will conduct the affairs of my house with a blameless heart. I will not look for approval on anything that is vile. I hate what faithless people do; I will have no part in it.* (vv.2-3)

Several thoughts come to my mind in reading these verses. One is that I should be conducting the affairs of my house in the same manner that we are instructed in the church. Church life and day to day life should not be different. Whether we are providing guidance for our family or running a business, the character and attitude should be the same. In both of these exercises one should apply wisdom and integrity. So, whether David was in command as the king, or we are providing leadership for our family, or civil leaders are providing leadership from our government, all actions should be governed by the same principles. We all should be guided to a blameless life and with a blameless heart. We should serve with wisdom that comes from God and with integrity which is a mark of obedience. We need not to use the world’s standards as our guide.

Jeremiah 18:1-11; Psalm 109; Romans 8:1-11; John 6:27-40

Thursday, March 23

Romans 8:12-27 *I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed.* (vv.18-19)

In my life not everything has worked out according to my plans. What a surprise. Many times, I have just asked God to bless the direction on which I had already started. The point that I am expressing is that I have wanted a perfect world to be the quick answer. I am tired of the suffering, and I am tired of justice not being served right now. But Scripture reminds us that this world will not be perfect. This world is full of sin and suffering will naturally follow. Keep the faith. The prize is yet to come. Our eyes should be on Jesus and the future he is preparing for us.

We have work to do in this world and we need to be mindful of the gifts bestowed on us and to be using them. The

satisfaction will not come in a comparison to worldly standards. We do our kingdom work out of obedience and for the love of what our Lord has given to us. There will be times of great suffering and we won't receive everything for which we ask. We wait for the time when Jesus will come again and then we will truly see the glory for which we have been striving.

Jeremiah 22:13-23; Psalm 69; John 6:41-51

Friday, March 24

Jeremiah 23:1-8 *Therefore this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says to the shepherds who tend my people: "Because you have scattered my flock and driven them away and have not bestowed care on them, I will bestow punishment on you for the evil you have done," declares the LORD.* (vv.2-3)

Of what are we shepherds? I think of us as being shepherds of the body of the Church. I think of us as being shepherds of the resources God has entrusted to us and that He directs us to use for His purposes. Are we tending to His flock? Are we nurturing the flock or are we quick to just pass judgement and condemn? I need to be reminded that our culture leads to comparisons, to judge by results, and to be critical to accomplish the objective. Doesn't this then lead to scattering the flock?

Why is the younger generation fleeing the Church? I believe it is because we are not feeding the flock. We are quick to condemn and we are not gentle in giving them the opportunity to air their questions. Seekers are not looking for perfection. They are looking for answers to their questions, they are looking for truth and signs of being authentic. Authentic is not being perfect. Seekers are wanting to see us tending the flock rather than scattering them away and not caring for their concerns. I am trying to be a better listener. I am trying to be genuine and to be truthful in my interactions. Let us pray for the wisdom to be a good shepherd.

Psalm 102; Romans 8:28-39; John 6:52-59

Saturday, March 25

Romans 9:1-18 *Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden.* (v.18)

While this verse can conjure a few theological questions, I want to try and offer a little different insight. Much of my writing this week has been on seeking truth, using the resources given to us, and tending to our Lord's flock. To some extent we are being asked to be the stewards of His truth and His message. We are being asked to call others into a relationship with Jesus.

How do we keep score or more importantly, should we be keeping score? If hearts can be hardened does that discourage us from spreading the Gospel? I don't think it matters. God is sovereign and He will harden whom He wants to harden. Our job is to spread the word. Our job is to live a life that draws people to ask us why we live as we do. We are not the scorekeepers. Whether a person comes to faith may never be known to us. Yet we might have been and should have been part of their journey to gain a saving faith. Let's be about spreading the good work and leave the score keeping to God.

Jeremiah 23:9-15; Psalms 107:33-43, 108; John 6:60-71



In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for the Anglican Church of Southern Africa

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for Grace Church, Casanova and St. Anne's Parish (Christ Church, St. Stephen's, St. John's)

CURRENT PRAYER LIST

Christine, Dianne, Ellen, Gary, Harry, James, Kathy, Latavia, Marlene, Penny, Susan Anderson, Joanne Beck and Family, Jenny Grant, Liam Jackson, Ken Luehrs, Nancy Russler, Janice Lee Sealy, Marianne Simpson, Karla Snellings, Shirley Sumner, May Jane Tillman, Annette Trafacante



BIRTHDAYS

March 19th - Dora Holman, Jacob Macina
March 20th - Michael Hubbard
March 23rd - Alexander Luong
March 24th - Calvin Harned
March 27th - Pearle Galatas, Lorri Ward
March 28th - Tim Aberg
March 30th - Steve Bradshaw, Will Farr, Bill Ross

ANNIVERSARY

March 19th - David and Jean Hunt
March 22nd - Bill and Kathie Clifton