

St Francis Episcopal Church, San Jose, CA
Morning Prayer, Tuesday, November 23, 2021
Clive Staples Lewis
Spiritual Writer, 1963

When 2 people are reading: READER 1: Plain Text *Reader 2: Italics* **Both: Bold**

You are invited to begin the service by lighting a candle.

Happy are all they that wait for the LORD. (Isaiah 30:18)
Happy are all they that put their trust in him. (Psalm 2:12)

Happy are they who know that they are poor;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs. (Matt. 5:3)
Happy are they whose delight is in the law of the Lord. (Ps. 1:1-2)
Happy are they of a gentle spirit; (Ps. 37:11)
They shall have the earth for their inheritance. (Matthew 5:5)

Happy are they who do hunger and thirst to see the right prevail;
For they shall be satisfied. (Matthew 5:6)
Happy are the merciful;
For they shall obtain mercy. (Matthew 5:7)

Happy are the pure in heart;
For they shall see God. (Psalm 24:4, Matthew 5:8)

Happy are the peacemakers;
For they shall be called the children of God. (Matthew 5:9)
Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us,
that we should be called the children of God.
And such we are. (1 John 3:1)

Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who only does wondrous things;
And blessed be the Name of his majesty for ever:
Let all the earth be filled with his glory. (Ps. 72:19-20)¹

¹ ~ in *Canadian Centennial Anthology of Prayer* (The Canadian Interfaith Conference, 1967).
<http://www.amazon.ca/Canadian-Centennial-Anthology-Interfaith-Conference/dp/B0087KOKTW>

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind. As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and forever. **Amen.**

Psalm 139

1 Lord, you have searched me out and known me; you know my sitting down and my rising up;

you discern my thoughts from afar.

2 *You trace my journeys and my resting-places and are acquainted with all my ways.*

3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

4 *You press upon me behind and before and lay your hand upon me.*

5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

6 *Where can I go then from your Spirit? where can I flee from your presence?*

7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there; if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

8 *If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,*

9 Even there your hand will lead me and your right hand hold me fast.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

A reading from the First Letter of Peter

3 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, ⁷even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁸so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁹Although you have not seen ¹⁰him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ¹¹for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.*

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

**I saw a new heaven and a new earth,
for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away**

and the sea was no more.

And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem,
coming down out of heaven from God,
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a great voice from the throne saying,
'Behold, my dwelling is with my people.

'I will dwell with them and they shall be mine,
and I myself will be with them.

'I will wipe away every tear from their eyes,
and death shall be no more.

'Neither shall there be mourning,
nor crying, nor pain any more,
for the former things have passed away.'
And the One who sat upon the throne said,*
'Behold, I make all things new.'

Revelation 21:1-5

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the
beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

A reading from the Gospel of John

⁷Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate⁸ will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about⁹ sin and righteousness and judgement: ⁹about sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; ¹¹about judgement, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

¹² 'I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

**I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty
and the Lamb.**

**And the city has no need of sun or moon
to shine upon it, for the glory of God is its light,
and its lamp is the Lamb.**

**By its light the nations shall walk, and the rulers of the earth
shall bring their glory into it.**

**Its gates shall never be shut by day, nor shall there be any night;
they shall bring into it the glory and honour of the nations.**

**I saw the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of
God and of the Lamb.**

**And either side of the river stood the tree of life, yielding its fruit each month,
and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.**

**The throne of God and of the Lamb shall be there, and his servants shall
worship him; and they shall see his face and his name shall be on their
foreheads.**

**To the One who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honour
and glory and might, for ever and ever.** *Revelation 21:22-26; 22:1-4; 5:13*

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the
beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins**

**the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Prayers

Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;
Govern and uphold them, now and always.
Day by day we bless you;
We praise your Name for ever.
Lord, keep us from all sin today;
Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.
Lord, show us your love and mercy;
For we put our trust in you.
In you, Lord, is our hope;
And we shall never hope in vain.

O God of searing truth and surpassing beauty, we give you thanks for Clive Staples Lewis whose sanctified imagination lights fires of faith in young and old alike; Surprise us also with your joy and draw us into that new and abundant life which is ours in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

God of life and of truth,
Your Son invites us to see the world through your eyes
and we find ourselves disoriented:

You bless the poor
You bless the meek
You bless the pure in heart.
You turn our world and its values upside down.

We have signed on to follow your Son but this is strange territory.
It doesn't look anything like the life we have been taught to yearn for, to work for, to believe will bring us happiness.

Yet, You know the despair that besets
so many of our young people
who fear that their future has been mortgaged
by our greed and carelessness.
You hear the cries of those who

have traded their souls for power and money
and now have emptiness as a friend.
***You see those who are caught in lives that
lead only to weariness and anxiety.***

Set us at Jesus' feet
so we can learn to judge our lives differently.
Awaken in us that hunger and thirst for you
which will lead us to your will
and your peace.

Open our eyes to see your unexpected blessings.
Open our hearts to welcome you
when you come to us in strange ways.

Then make us into a community of blessedness
that beckons this neighborhood
into your joy.

We ask these things in the name of Jesus
who blesses us with your living presence
and fills our lives with your life-changing truth. **Amen.** ²

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil, and keep us in eternal life. *Amen.*
Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

²

C S LEWIS

APOLOGIST AND SPIRITUAL WRITER (22 NOV 1963)

Clive Staples Lewis ("Jack" Lewis to his friends) was a tutor and lecturer at Oxford University, and later Professor of Medieval and Renaissance English Literature at Cambridge University. In the judgment of many, he is the most popular and most effective explainer and defender of the Christian faith writing in English in this century. He tried to make a point of avoiding disputes on matters where Christians disagree, and defending those beliefs which they hold in common. His work was valued by many Christians of widely differing backgrounds: Anglican, Baptist, Methodist, Pentecostal, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, etc.

BOOKS BY C S LEWIS (CLIVE STAPLES LEWIS)

The Irish-English writer C S Lewis (1898-1963) has written many books and essays on the Christian faith, some defending it, some meditating on it. A partial list follows

1) MERE CHRISTIANITY. This originated as a series of fifteen-minute radio talks addressed to a very general audience, undertaking to give a general account of Christian belief. It begins with a discussion of some reasons for believing that God exists, and why it matters that He does, and then continues with an account of the redeeming work of God in Christ. It includes a discussion of Christian moral standards, and Trinitarian theology. Throughout, the author undertakes to confine himself to the common Christian core of belief, and to steer clear of disagreements between denominations -- hence the word MERE in the title.

2) MIRACLES. The author defines a miracle as "an interference with Nature by a supernatural power," and proceeds to examine the question of whether we have grounds for believing that there exists something that can properly be called supernatural (this involves definitions of Nature other than just "everything that exists"), whether there are grounds for supposing that that something could not or would not interfere with the workings of Nature, and what sort of view of reality is involved in the Christian assertion of the Miracle of the Incarnation (God took human

nature upon Himself in the Person of Jesus of Nazareth). A cogent discussion and analysis of fundamental questions.

3) THE PROBLEM OF PAIN. Undertakes to answer the question, "If God is good and God is omnipotent, then why is there pain and evil in the world?" or, as otherwise put, "If God loves me, why can't I get my locker open?"

4) THE GREAT DIVORCE. A dream (owing some ideas to Dante) in which the author visits Heaven and Hell. The question is not what they are like physically, but rather what it means to be in Hell or in Heaven.

5) THE ABOLITION OF MAN. Not explicitly Christian. Three lectures defending the concept of Natural Law (a moral standard known in principle to all human societies).

6) THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS. A series of letters from Screwtape, an experienced devil, to his nephew Wormwood, a junior tempter on his first assignment. The letters deal with the psychology of temptation, and will make most readers laugh -- and wince. (NOTE: Some copies have at the end an essay, "Screwtape Proposes a Toast". This was written years later on a totally different subject. By all means read them both, but not as a single work, or in rapid succession.)

7) REFLECTIONS ON THE PSALMS. Problems or questions that occurred to Lewis while praying or studying the Psalms, and his thoughts thereon.

8) A PREFACE TO PARADISE LOST. A series of lectures on epic poetry and in particular on Milton's Paradise Lost. Lewis delivered these in his professional capacity as a specialist in Mediaeval and Renaissance English Literature, but they will be of interest to Christians as well as to English students, for Lewis maintains that one cannot understand or appreciate the poem without understanding (not necessarily accepting) the beliefs that the poem presupposes.

9) THE WORLD'S LAST NIGHT AND OTHER ESSAYS. Includes THE EFFICACY OF PRAYER. Does it make sense to believe that prayer can change things? ON OBSTINACY IN BELIEF. Does it ever make sense to believe something "in the teeth of the evidence"? THE WORLD'S LAST NIGHT. How ought the doctrine of Christ's Second Coming to affect our lives and thoughts? AND OTHER ESSAYS. Many collections of Lewis's essays have appeared since his death, and there is an annoying lack of uniformity, so that the same essay may appear in two different books, or in one but not another collection with the same title.

10) THE WEIGHT OF GLORY AND OTHER ADDRESSES. Includes THE WEIGHT OF GLORY. On the promises concerning Heaven. TRANSPOSITION. (The title essay of the earlier editions.) On the indwelling of the higher in the lower. THE INNER RING. On the urge to "belong" as a temptation. AND OTHER ADDRESSES.

11) THE SPACE TRILOGY. Three science-fiction or fantasy novels on Christian themes. OUT OF THE SILENT PLANET, PERELANDRA, THAT HIDEOUS STRENGTH

12) THE NARNIA CHRONICLES. Seven books for children, fantasies or fairy tales that introduce indirectly many Christian topics. A reader might not notice the Christian implications (and I would suggest not pointing them out to a first-time reader), but an adult faced with a

serious, intellectual, adult question may sometimes recall a passage as very much to the point. (I have.) Calling them books of stories may suggest an arbitrary collection of independent tales. In fact each book is a single story, and the series is a unity and should probably be read in the order of writing (although this makes the sixth a flashback, and some would favor reading it first.) THE LION, THE WITCH, AND THE WARDROBE; PRINCE CASPIAN; THE VOYAGE OF THE DAWN TREADER; THE SILVER CHAIR; THE HORSE AND HIS BOY; THE MAGICIAN'S NEPHEW; THE LAST BATTLE

13) LETTERS TO MALCOLM, CHIEFLY ON PRAYER. The title explains.

14) TILL WE HAVE FACES. Novel retelling the story of Eros and Psyche from the viewpoint of one of the sisters. One listmember wrote that she disliked Lewis's work (I suspect for political reasons). I got her to read this and she loved it. She said: "I had no idea Lewis could write this sort of book!"

15) ENGLISH LITERATURE IN THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY EXCLUDING DRAMA, later named POETRY AND PROSE IN THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY. A standard reference work. Much of the material is of interest chiefly to the specialist, but someone already familiar with the doctrines on which Christians are in general agreed and wanting to understand the differences that gave rise to the Protestant Reformation will find much helpful material. I particularly recommend pages 32-44, 162-165, 177-180, 181-192, 438-463.

16) THE PILGRIM'S REGRESS. An account in the style of John Bunyan of how a young man, nominally reared as a Christian, abandoned his beliefs and fared forth in search of something better, and eventually arrived at a destination in one sense identical with, but in another sense very different from, his starting point. The intellectual alternatives he considers are affected by the fact that he is (a) an Englishman, living in the 1920's, and (b) a scholar largely devoted to literature and philosophy. Today's reader may therefore find some of the references irrelevant or simply baffling, but I predict that there will be a residue that hits home. [*Out of print but probably available used.*]

17) THE FOUR LOVES. An analysis of different kinds of love, and different uses of the word "love," taking as its starting point four Greek words for kinds of love.

18) THE ALLEGORY OF LOVE first made Lewis's reputation in his profession as a literature professor. It deals with the development of allegorical love poetry in Western Europe from Ovid to Spenser. Parts of it are of interest only to the specialist, but I do not think this is true of the book as a whole. Reading it significantly changed my views on the workings of the subconscious. [*Out of print but probably available used.*]

19) GOD IN THE DOCK is a collection published after Lewis's death of various essays, brief memos, letters to the editor, etc. that he had written. [*Out of print but probably available used.*]

20) AN EXPERIMENT IN CRITICISM deals with Art, particularly literature. Many critics have first distinguished good books from bad books, and then defined Bad Taste as a taste for Bad Books. Lewis asks what will happen if we reverse the process by distinguishing two kinds of pleasures to be gotten from books (or music, or painting) and then distinguishing books on the

basis of the kind of pleasure that they offer, or the way in which they invite the reader to approach them. [*Out of print but probably available used.*]

21) THE DISCARDED IMAGE is an account of the view of the cosmos that was standard in medieval times, with a discussion of its effect on literature and on the imagination.

22) STUDIES IN WORDS takes several English words (and often their counterparts in Latin or Greek) and discusses changes in their meaning from century to century, and the patterns of human thought underlying the changes.

**) AND MANY MORE!!

by James Kiefer

[Note: Not mentioned are two autobiographical books: A Grief Observed and Surprised by Joy. Also, several of his major works: Mere Christianity, The Screwtape Letters, The Great Divorce, The Problem of Pain, Miracles, A Grief Observed, and The Abolition of Man are available as a single boxed set.

Much of A Grief Observed appears in the excellent movie Shadowlands.

Additionally, four of the Chronicles of Narnia series are available on DVD in a BBC production, and the more recent productions of The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe (2005), Prince Caspian (2008) and Voyage of the Dawn Treader (2010) are also available on DVD]

<http://satucket.com/lectionary/cslewis.htm>