

Community of Grace

Daily Walk for the week of December 20, 2020

“Stir Up Our World”

Written by Kerri Lawton

Monday, December 21, 2020

2 Samuel 7:1-2: “Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, ‘See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.’” This is a period of peace for King David. He is living in a grand house of Cedar and he is appreciating his position. He is grateful to God for his blessings and wants to build a house in God’s honor. He had sincere intentions. God’s response, through Nathans vision, was, in a gracious manner “no thank you” although He was honored by David’s wish. There are times when we want to do more in God’s name but are prevented from doing so. God receives our intentions as a gift as well. God’s place, his tabernacle (tent) had been moved among his people as they traveled from place to place. God had never asked for a house to be built and was more concerned for the future “house “of David, establishing his kingdom. We the people, descendants of David, are God’s temple, as he lives among us then and now. It is up to us to stir up the world with the power of God’s mercy to strengthen us. Prayer: Heavenly Father, we the people, your Temple of the world, ask for your continued Love and Grace. Through Jesus Christ we have hope in humanity and goodwill for all. Amen

Tuesday, December 22, 2020

2 Samuel 7:16: “Your house and your kingdom shall be made forever before me; your

throne shall be established forever.” God’s message to David was his covenant with David. God is reassuring him that his kingdom shall be established with God’s blessing. And the prophets foretold a greater fulfillment of these promises. God’s promise of a house for David is completely fulfilled in Jesus Christ. This assurance is what we need today. Our world is ever changing, and the promises God makes, and fulfills, should stir up our world, looking to God for his influences. 2 Timothy 1:6-7 “for this reason I remind you to rekindle {stir up} the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands, for God didn’t give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.” Prayer: Dear Lord, our thoughts and minds are filled with your message of hope and love. May we continue, with the influence of your grace, to stir up the world and share your love! Amen

“Lessons & Carols”

Written by Dale Spivey

December 23, 2020

O Come, All Ye Faithful

“O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem, come and behold Him, born the King of Angels, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.” This Sunday we will gather together on Zoom and sing in song and praise as we listen to God’s Word read aloud. Every year we have “Lessons & Carols” Sunday. This year as so many things have been different for us, this too will be different. I will miss hearing all of our voices

es merging into one song. Nothing though can mute the love and light of Christ that will still be there as we gather in community to celebrate His coming into the world. "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined." Isaiah 9:2a I feel that this carol, "O Come, All Ye Faithful", is calling us out of our darkness to remind us of our light. Whatever is dark in your life remember the light and love that Jesus calls us into everyday. Prayer: "As we sing and hear the familiar songs of Your birth, Lord, remind us of Your love and light and help us to shine."

December 24, 2020

Silent Night

"Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright, round yon virgin Mother and Child, Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace," Christmas Eve is always full of emotion for me: excitement, anxiety, and worry. Peace is usually not one of those emotions. There is always still much to do in the waiting for Christmas morning. "And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace." Micah 5:2-5a Those who know me know I was not gifted with patience. Waiting is a gift though. When we wait is when we have a moment to cope, a moment to pray for what is coming. Christ is coming to bring us peace that passes all understanding. When we remember whose

we are we can settle in that peace and know that whatever is coming we are not alone because Christ is with us. Prayer: "Christ, come into our lives, hearts, and minds today and always. Fill us full of peace and love. Amen."

December 25, 2020

Joy to the World

"Joy to the world! The Lord is come! Let earth receive her King! Let every heart, prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing" Today we celebrate the birth of Jesus! Have you ever looked at a tiny new being and wondered how this new life can be? I know the three times I was pregnant I was scared. "The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus." Luke 1: 30-31 How did Mary do it? As a mom I was so worried I would not do everything right and when I miscarried I was sure I had done something wrong. Mary was not only going to have a baby, she was having God's Son! How scary would that be? Jesus was born to bring a gift to you and me. At the births and loss of my children I was not alone. I sang songs at all three times, feeling Christ with me in my grieving and in my joy. I did not have to be perfect. I just had to be, and I could because Christ was with me. This Christmas let your heart prepare him room, be present, feel the joy, grieve the loss, pray for your neighbor, see the life around you, know you are forgiven, and accept the gift of the Christ child. Prayer: "Jesus, thank

You for bringing Joy to the world. Help us to not be afraid and feel your presence this Christmas Day. Amen.”

December 26, 2020

Away in a Manger

“Away in a manger, no crib for His bed, the little Lord Jesus, lay down His sweet head; the stars in the sky, looked down where He lay, the little Lord Jesus, Asleep on the hay”

The day after Christmas is a time to rest. Children enjoy their new toys. Families and friends visit by phone, Zoom, or in person. It is not time to take down decorations quite yet. “While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.” Luke 2:6-7 As Mary looked at her beautiful son do you think she could not keep her eyes from him? I know when I am around babies all I want to do is stare at them, hold them close and kiss their sweet heads. I wish you a day of rest and wonder this day after Christmas. When my girls were little we always sang the last verse of this song as a bedtime prayer. That will be our prayer for today as well. Prayer: “Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay, close by me forever, and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children, in Thy tender care, And take us to Heaven, to live with Thee there. Amen.”

December 27, 2020

Angels We Have Heard on High

“Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains, Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly, sweetly

through the night, And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains, Gloria, in excelsis Deo, Gloria, in excelsis Deo, Shepherds, why this jubilee?, Why your joyous strains prolong?, What the gladsome tidings be, Which inspire your heavenly song? Gloria, in excelsis Deo, Gloria, in excelsis Deo” I always picture a bunch of beautiful angels singing to a group of men like my husband. “And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” Luke 2 13-15 When I was in high school I said I would never date a man who drove a truck. God has a sense of humor. The love of my life is a truck driving hunter and I could not be more happy. I just mean I picture these shepherds a little like my husband Royce who does not mince words, gets right to the point, is hard working and makes a decision without all the feelings being addressed or over analyzed. These angles knew what they were doing. I feel they wanted their message heard and given without embellishment from someone with credibility and respect. Today we will celebrate in our “Lessons & Carols” Sunday Zoom Service the message brought to us from Angels and Shepherds. Prayer: “Be with us, Lord, as we sing songs of praise for Christmas and remember Your birth. Continue to walk with us in the coming year. Amen.”