

Community of Grace

Daily Walk for the week of January 11, 2021

Baptism of Our Lord Written by Ashleigh Henning

January 11th, 2021

Psalm 69 has become one of great comfort throughout 2020 and as we enter into 2021. It reflects the worries, stress, and struggles that many of us might be feeling or burdened with. However, throughout the gospel it is revealed so evidently to be true that Christ abides with us, always. "I have come to the deep waters, and the flood sweeps over me. I am weary with my crying; my throat is parched." might be a true ode to 2020. However, from the beginning of the Bible, God made a covenant with all of their people that they will never abandon us again. So, as we might feel overwhelmed and burdened with the deep water, may we always be reminded that God is right there beside us. Prayer: Engrave in our minds and hearts God that no matter how overwhelming and stressful life might seem, You are always right beside us, holding our hands all the way. Instill comfort in our hearts that holds fast throughout all of the chaos of our world. Amen

January 12th, 2021

Every morning when we open our eyes, God calls us on to live another day on Earth. It is the same calling that we might have received to walk along the path of baptism, or becoming a member at church, or to start a new job. It is a calling to love others as Christ loved us. Every morning is full of new mercies and grace to enter into the day as God's beloved child. Paul, when describing his Baptism, reveals the power that exists when God calls your name into

action. Paul himself was healed by the Holy Spirit to be able to see the righteousness of God, how cool is that! Everyday God heals, guides, evolves you to be able to understand the wonder and awe that is the Kingdom of God! Prayer: Guide us deeper into understanding how you are changing us to be better vessels of your word in our world. Thank you for claiming and calling us every single day into living in new mercies. Let nothing separate us from you.

Jesus' Invitation...To Be Known

Written by Vicar Jamie Witt

Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2021

Your Servant is Listening

"Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'" 1 Samuel 3:10. One of the most precious ways that God brings us into relationship with God is through prayer. We have the ability to sit with God and talk about what is on our hearts and minds and God listens to us. We are gifted this time with God to lift up concerns that weigh on our hearts and offer thanksgiving for good things in our lives. We also can use this time with God to lift up others in need of God's presence and care. If you're anything like me during prayer time you do a lot of talking. There's always so much on my mind that I want to bring to God. At the end of every prayer, I try and remember to make space for silence. To make space for God to speak and me to listen. Like Samuel I need to take a moment and let God know that I'm listening and am open to what God will whisper to my heart. We are fully known

and fully loved by God. Accept God's invitation into relationship by making intentional prayer time to talk and to listen. Prayer: "Thank You, Lord for your presence in my life and in my prayer time. Thank You for hearing me when I talk. Please meet me in the silence and let me hear Your voice. Your servant is listening. Amen

Thursday, Jan. 14, 2021

Searched and Known

"O Lord, you have searched me and known me." Psalm 139:1. Nothing is hidden from the Lord. You are searched and known...and loved. God has been with you since your beginning and accepts you, flaws and all, as God's beloved child. You are never beyond the reach of God and God's love. There is also nothing you need to explain to God when words fail you. There are times where silence enters our prayers not because we are listening, but because we can't form the words we want or need to say. Our emotional state may be overwhelming and constructing a well worded prayer might not be possible. In those moments remember the line from this psalm, "O Lord, you have searched me and known me." God knows what you carry on your heart and God will gently lift it up and hold it in God's hands and replace it with grace and love. Prayer: "God, please search me and know me. Take all that weighs on my heart and mind. I give it all into Your loving care. I am held and comforted in the knowledge that I am fully known and loved by You. Amen."

Friday, Jan. 15, 2021

You Are Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

"For it was you who formed my inward

parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made." Psalm 139:13-14a. In January we are always bombarded with television ads that remind us that it's a new year and new chance to improve ourselves. People talk about their New Year's Resolutions and they more often than not revolve around losing weight, exercising more or eating healthier. Instead of embracing the new year by focusing on the positive things we already have in our lives, we focus on the negative things that we think need to change. Here's the important thing to remember, there is nothing about you that you have to change to be worthy of God's love. If you choose to incorporate a healthier lifestyle to begin this year that's perfectly fine and can be a good thing, however it doesn't change the core truth about you right now...you are fearfully and wonderfully made. Fully known and loved by God who created you to be exactly who you are. Take a moment and speak the line from the above text out loud: "I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made." Prayer: "Creator God, take up space in my brain and push out the negative self-talk that invades during this time of the new year. May it be replaced with the psalmist's words that I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Amen."

Saturday, Jan. 16, 2021

Follow Me

"The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.'" John 1:43. Jesus just says, "Follow me." No explanation of why, no sales pitch about the great things Philip

would witness if he came, just “follow me”. There is so much that happens here that is not put to words. It is felt within the heart of Philip and Jesus. There is a silent communication that happens through the Holy Spirit’s power that tells Philip that this man Jesus is extraordinary in ways that he cannot even comprehend yet. He knows that it is God calling him. Jesus is known to him through the Spirit’s power, so he follows. Jesus knows Philip completely so there is no hesitation in his words. He knows that Philip will follow. Each one knows the other. We are also that fully known by Jesus and are also called to follow him. We are called to follow him and trust in him as we journey into this new year. He walked with us last year through every trial and hardship and also every joy and smile and he will continue to walk with us on the road ahead and meet our every need. We are known and loved and invited by Jesus to follow. Prayer: “Loving Lord, there are times where new journeys seem filled with trepidation and fear. This year is no different. You ask me to follow You and I gladly take Your hand, release my fear, trusting in You. Together we walk forward. Amen.”

Sunday, Jan. 17, 2021

Jesus’ Invitation...To Be Known

“Nathanael asked him, ‘Where did you get to know me?’ Jesus answered, ‘I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.’ Nathanael replied, ‘Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!’” John 1:48-49. Prior to this exchange between Jesus and Nathanael Jesus had declared something about Nathanael that would have required him to know Nathanael well.

This causes some confusion on Nathanael’s part. How could this man Jesus know him? He’d never seen him before in his life. Jesus’ answer reveals to Nathanael that Jesus had only to look upon him to know him and all that he ever was and will be. Jesus said, “I saw you...”. That’s all. Jesus continues to say that to us all today. We have been seen and fully known by the Son of God. Jesus invites us to rest in the knowledge and comfort of being fully known by God. In that knowing comes a shower of acceptance, love, forgiveness, and grace. Let yourself rejoice in that knowledge of being seen, heard, known, and loved completely. Prayer: “Dwell in my heart, Lord, with the knowledge that I am fully known and loved by You. May I walk in the light of that truth all the days of my life. Amen.”