

# Community of Grace

## DAILY WALK WEEK OF JUNE 20, 2022

Partners in Ministry: Are Set Free

Written by Pastor Matt Henning

### **Monday June 20<sup>th</sup> Protection from evil**

“Hear my voice, O God, in my complaint; preserve my life from the dread enemy. Hide me from the secret plots of the wicked, from the scheming of evildoers, who whet their tongues like swords, who aim bitter words like arrows, shooting from ambush at the blameless; they shoot suddenly and without fear.” Psalm 64:1-4. We are never promised an easy life in our faith journeys, but we are promised that God will be at work all around us. Even when unexpected things happen in our lives God is there and at work in our midst. This psalm teaches us to trust, call out for help, and expect God to be at work. God will protect us from evil and we are simply called to trust and act in love and grace. Prayer: “Some day, O Lord, our heads and hearts spin with fear from too many threats big and small. Fill us instead with peace beyond our grasp. Give us trust in your presence with us in this world. Amen.”

### **Tuesday June 21<sup>st</sup> In Christ One Body**

“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace,” Ephesians 2:13-15. Paul’s world is divided between Jews and Gentiles and in Christ Paul sees the humanity is both people. We are called by Christ into one loving body in the world

we share with many different peoples and faiths. Our faith calls us into that “one body” to love our neighbors no matter who they are or how they understand the world around them. We can understand them as simply children of God that we are called to serve and love with the gift of our lives. We can do this when we come together as one in God’s love. Prayer: “Draw us close to one another in your love and grace, O God, that we may serve all the people of your creation. Amen.”

Partners in Ministry: Look Forward

Written by Alexia Cundey

### **Wednesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>**

#### **Stop and Follow**

Our theme this week is “Partners in Ministry: Look Forward.” My first thought was “Look Forward? But I have so many things going on right now!!” Just before 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21 scripture reading, Elijah is having a conversation with the Lord. The Lord asks him “What are you doing here, Elijah?” Elijah responds that he is in the cave, alone, after his life was threatened and he spent 40 days and 40 nights traveling to Horeb the mount of God. He’s been eager to do God’s work but questions earlier if he’s done enough. The Lord gives him direction (vs 15-16) telling him to anoint Hazael, Jehu and Elisha. In verses 19 through 21, we see that Elijah comes to anoint Elisha. Elisha is plowing his land and after sharing a meal, he says his good-byes and “set out and followed Elijah, and became his servant.” Elisha clearly is in the midst of plowing his land when Elijah arrives to anoint him. Being in relationship with God, sometimes we are called to stop what we are in the middle of and follow. There are many things on my to-do-

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list but sometimes God has stopped me in mid-list and called me to do something else on his behalf. We need to be open and willing to go where God is calling us – it could be making a phone call to someone, writing a letter, sitting with someone while they share their story or it may be a life change such as taking a new job or buying a new home to share with your parents. Even when we are exhausted and think we can do no more, God is calling us to continue to love and share and follow. Prayer: Gracious and merciful God, help me to spend time with you each day and be open to your call to love those around me, share your stories and follow where you lead me. Amen

**Thursday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Protect Me as I walk with Thee**

Psalm 16 is a “Song of Trust and Security in God” and in the resource “Bread for the Day Year C 2022” by Augsburg Fortress they paired the hymn “Just a Closer Walk with Thee” for today. “Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the Lord, ‘You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.’” (vs 1-2) Looking forward in ministry together, each of us should be making sure our to-do-list includes time with God in prayer, in worship, in word, in serving, in relationship and in giving. I can honestly say that I struggle with being disciplined in all these areas. I do know that if I do things with God in mind first and not myself, I experience God’s protection over me. God wants us to invite him into all areas of our lives and use the fruit of our work for God. Find time today to sing or listen to the hymn “Just a Closer Walk with Thee” and invite God into your

day-to-day tasks and experiences. Prayer: Jesus, my consistent walking partner, remind me today that you are with me and protect me along the way in all I do. Amen.

**Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup> Unhindered Focus**

Psalm 16:7-8 “I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. I keep the Lord always before me; because he is my right hand, I shall not be moved.” These verses allow us to see this week’s theme of “Partners in Ministry: Look Forward” with a focus and undivided attention toward God. As we look forward we should be aware of God’s presence and power and love weaved in our ministry at Community of Grace. I love the words Pastor Matt says at the beginning of worship each week “God has called you to this place, and I am glad you responded to that call.” Each of us is called to Community of Grace to grow and transform ourselves in a closer relationship with God and each other. Welcome God’s counsel as you focus on God in all you do and respond to God’s call with trust and praise. Prayer: Great Counselor, thank you for always being near and may your light shine through all I do today. May I grow in trusting your call for me at Community of Grace and beyond. May my to-do-list be made with an unhindered focus on your presence with me during each task. Amen

**Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup> Freedom to....**

Galatians 5:13 “For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another.” As we partner to-

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gether in ministry looking forward to all God is calling us to do, Paul reminds us in this verse to make sure we aren't self-indulgent but serving others through love. The meaning of freedom is "the power or right to act, speak, or think as one wants without hindrance or restraint." Freedom in Christ turns our life on earth upside down - we are to "become slaves to one another" by sharing love with each other as Jesus showed us while he walked this earth. We can only do this with the help from the Spirit "If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit." Galatians 5:25 Prayer: Loving God, give us the wherewithal to let go of our flesh desires and accept help from the Spirit as we share your love today. Thank you for giving us the Spirit to guide us away from self-indulgence and steer us toward loving one another. Amen.

**Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup>**

### **Partners in Ministry: Look Forward**

Luke 9 vs. 58 "And Jesus said to him, 'Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.'" vs. 60 "But Jesus said to him, 'Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.'" vs. 62 Jesus said to him, 'No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.'" In these three verses, Jesus provides a response to would-be followers. Jesus is making a point that you've got to be "all-in" when following Him. As we look to Jesus' ministry while he walked this earth, we see a completely devoted focus on the kingdom of God. There is a sense of urgency in these verses and they remind us of what our focus should be as we look

forward. Be open to the Spirit's calling. Be aware that God's presence is with you. Be willing to share love with all. Community of Grace's Mission is "We are called, gathered and enlightened by God to grow in grace and transform lives." How do we do that? Look forward in daily prayer; in weekly worship; in daily scripture; in serving those in our church and community; in building spiritual friendships; in giving with joy and thanksgiving. Prayer: God, we appreciate you sending your Son to show us how to live amongst each other. Remind us today to look forward with a focus on your calling in our lives. Amen