

Today's Calendar

11:40 am School Children Feeding Program

Saturday, September 5, 2020

Psalm 32 *Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.* (v.10)

Being able to thank God for God's unchanging love, that is light and life for you, and was, is, and always will be salvation for you, is the beginning of a trusting faith journey. The next part is trusting that God's love is always surrounding you. I retired when I entered the seventieth decade of my earthly life. After retirement, I started paying close attention to all the things that come into my life as gifts from God. By paying close attention I now know that they are truly actions of God in my life. The evidence of these gifts has taught me that God's steadfast love does indeed surround us. I've also discovered that steadfast love can be trusted! I want to encourage you to start paying attention and remembering the things that come into your life as gifts from God. You don't have to wait until you're in your seventies. It isn't age that reveals God's surrounding love, it's paying attention and remembering, here and now, how God is surrounding you with steadfast love you can trust.

Job 22:1-4, 21—23:7; Psalm 30; Acts 13:26-43; John 10:1-18

Today's Birthdays

John Symonds

Today's Calendar

Calendar for September 6, 2020

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Labor Day Weekend
Diocesan Morning Prayer

TRINITY PRAYER LIST

Please remember in your daily prayers the following people who are sick or recuperating:

*New names this week are listed in **bold**.*

Adam; Caroline; **Craig; Dan;** Davis; **Debbie;** Deborah; Debra; Frank; **Janet;** Jon; Kathleen; Laura; Marci; Mario; Mike; Nancy; Paula; Rachel; Raymond; Rich; Richard; Robert; Rusty; Sharon; Tom; Vaughan; **Wendy;** Susan Anderson; Chuck B.; Anne Barge; Maria Barnhart; Michael Barrett; Sharon D.; Neil Edwards; Bill Farr; Allan Feliciano; Pearle Galatas; Rose Gallup; Dorothy Gassel; Alice Glover; Tony Griswold; Barbara Harkins; Bunny Harris; Emily Hinkley; Dora & Leonard Holman; Stephen Holman; Delane Lambert; Jack McGraw; William McSpadden; Winifred Relyea; Tina Revis; Marianne Simpson; Anne Smith; Jason & Natasha Smith and their family; John & Sarah Swart; Denise Symonds; Dan Tallett; John Thompson; May Jane Tillman; Sheila Vickers-Smith; Carlin, Teara & Caia Venaglia; Kelly Weber; Debbie Wheeler.

In the *Anglican Cycle of Prayer* we pray for the **united Church of South India** and in the *Diocesan Cycle of Prayer* we pray for the Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic and United Methodist dioceses, synods and conferences, and for the **Congregation and clergy of Wicomico Parish, Wicomico.**

Please let Denise, the Office Manager, know if you or a loved one need to be added to the prayer list and also call when that person has recovered so she can remove them from the list. You can email her at dsymonds@trinity-fredericksburg.org or call (540) 373-2996.

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA

GOOD NEWS by John Fergusson

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Bible Reading Fellowship

P.O. Box 380 Winter Park, FL 32790

Devotional readings for each day

Parish birthdays; anniversaries; calendar; and prayer list

Sunday, August 30, 2020

Matthew 5:1-12 *"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy."* (v.7 NRSV)

Recently, I was having coffee with a friend. He was very angry with a third friend, who is his business partner. The third friend had made what some might call a "sharp business deal" with a client of their business. It wasn't anything illegal, but it was certainly less than forthright, and the client paid more than he should have. My angry friend said, "I hope he has to pay a price for what he did!" I've known my coffee-mate friend and his business for a long time. I know for sure that he has done two "sharp business deals" of a similar kind, profiting from both of them. Driving home, I mulled over the fact that we are often willing and glad to receive mercy, but not so willing and glad to give it. This reminds me of times that, forgetting my own fallenness and failures of being merciful with someone. I seek mercy for myself. I still have much to learn from Jesus!

Job 11:1-9, 13-20; Psalms 148, 149, 150;
Revelation 5:1-14

Today's Birthdays

Sarah Nichols, Nina Otto

Calendar for Sunday, August 30, 2020

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Please join Bambi for
Rite II Spiritual Communion

Subscribe to our YouTube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCL2SQhSIT-4rhMPQuuy8Dvw>

Monday, August 31, 2020

Psalm 25 *Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.* (v.6)

I grew up in a very strict home. From the time I was five, until I was nine, my mother and father created a bedtime ritual for me. My mother had found two ceramic faces. One was a devil's face. The other was an angel's face. Each night, I would stand on a stool, being handed the face my parents deemed to represent my behavior that day. I would hang that face beside my door through the next day. If it was the angel's face, I was told that my parents and God were pleased with me. If it was the devil's face, I was told that my parents and God were very displeased with me. Unfortunately, the devil's face was handed me much more often than the angel's, leaving me with the conclusion both my parents and God were displeased with me. Fortunately, along the way I met Christians who taught me about a God of mercy and steadfast love. I've never forgotten that liberating, life-giving truth. I pray you'll never forget God's mercy and steadfast love!

Job 12:1-6, 13-25; Acts 11:19-30; John 8:21-32

Today's Calendar

11:40 am School Children Feeding Program

Tuesday, September 1, 2020

John 8:33-47 *Jesus said, "So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."* (v.36)

About five years ago, I met with a young Marine who had been combat deployed in both Iraq and Afghanistan. After meeting with him a few times, he got down to what was really bothering him. "Do you believe that Baptism is conditional? Can you lose the grace of it forever?" This young man had seen and done the deepest dark side of both battlegrounds. He was feeling lost and hopeless. (I remembered those feelings well, from my own return from Vietnam.) I told him, "I want to share something with you from my tradition of Christianity. In the service of Baptism we use, there's a simple statement: 'The bond which God establishes in Baptism is indissoluble.' I believe that with all my heart. In fact, I'm betting my life that it's the truth." He called me this year, after working hard on his PTSD. "I'm in college," he said. "I'm going to get my degree and go to Grad School. I want you to know, I'm betting my life on that statement too." Alleluia!

Job 12:1, 13:3-7, 21-27; Psalms 26, 28; Acts 12:1-17

Today's Birthdays

Jan Savage

Today's Calendar

10:30 am Tuesday AM Book Group Online
11:40 am School Children Feeding Program
12 Noon Knaughty Knitters Online
5:00 pm Campus Ministry online

Wednesday, September 2, 2020

John 8:47-59 *Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, before Abraham was, I am."* (v.58)

I often think about Jesus as my Savior on the cross, my friend and my brother. Frankly, what I'm thinking about in those titles is Jesus as a human being. My thoughts are captured in that venerable Easter hymn, "In the Garden." The words of the song's lyrics that always touch my heart are, "and the joy we share as we tarry there, none other has ever known." As comforting as these thoughts are, they aren't the whole reality of the mystery of Jesus Christ. Jesus is a human being, but he is also the Son, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity. That's what Jesus is trying to tell his listeners. He tells them that he preexists Abraham: "In the beginning was the Word" (John 1:1). Jesus also tells them that he is *I AM*, the name God gives Moses to know God by (Exodus 3:14). How deep, profound, and mysterious the truth and Good News of Jesus Christ really are!

Job 12:1, 14:1-22; Psalm 38; Acts 12:18-25

Today's Birthdays

Chris Brantley, Anne Luehrs

Today's Calendar

Morning Prayer with Bambi
11:40 am School Children Feeding Program
2:00 pm Goals Team—Task Force-Dismantle Racism
6:30 pm Daughters of the King Online

Thursday, September 3, 2020

Psalm 37:1-18 *Better is a little that the righteous person has than the abundance of many wicked.* (v.16)

A few years ago, I was startled by a bumper sticker. It said, "The one who dies with the most toys wins!" In the ensuing year, I saw several such bumper stickers, expressing

the same sentiment, that whoever dies having the most material possessions wins. Seriously, wins what? Is the real meaning and purpose of human existence to collect the largest pile of stuff? Is that really the legacy we want to leave? Is a great trove of material goods, that will either turn to dust and ashes or that someone else will possess, all a person would have to show for an entire lifetime. How very tragic and sad! My Trappist monk spiritual father died two years ago. I visited him for the last time a year before his death. He told me, "John, at the very end of our earthly lives, the only thing that will really matter is how and who we love and loved." Now that would be the best motto. "Whoever dies having loved the most wins!" Indeed, that's what Jesus Christ did. Alleluia!

Job 16:16-22, 17:1, 13-16; Acts 13:1-12; John 9:1-17

Today's Anniversaries

Bruce & Carol Petit

Today's Calendar

11:40 am School Children Feeding Program

Friday, September 4, 2020

Psalm 31 *I will exult and rejoice in your steadfast love.* (v.7a)

I confess that there have been times when I've not been very convinced that God loves me. My wartime experience in Vietnam, my failures to commend my faith, chasing values that the world and not the Gospel embraces, and the unrelenting conditional nature of the love I was shown as a child still crept into my mind. I asked my Trappist spiritual father for advice in dealing with my skepticism about God's love for me. He recited the verse above from memory. "What I want you to do every day of your life is to thank God for God's steadfast love for you. Steadfast means that God's love for you is unchanging. There's nothing you can do to make God stop loving you—*nothing!*" I prayed that every day. Eventually, my prayer changed. I now pray, "I thank You, God, for loving me. Your love has truly been light and life for me. Your love was, is, and always will be my salvation. Amen." Please feel free to borrow or change my prayer. It works!

Job 19:1-7, 14-27; Acts 13:13-25; John 9:18-41

Today's Birthdays

Chris Bledsoe, David Washington