


TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP
PO Box 380, Winter Park, FL 32790
by Dorothy Magill

Sunday, October 3

Acts 12:1-17 Suddenly, there was a bright light in the cell, and an angel of the Lord stood before Peter. The angel struck him on the side to awaken him and said, "Quick! Get up!" And the chains fell off his wrists. (v.7 NLT)

Many are the stories that are shared about angels who intervene to remove us from dangerous and life-threatening situations. A guardian angel was definitely walking beside our family member years ago on a late morning in November. He was experiencing pains and debated with himself whether to go to the hospital or not. No one else was home. A voice told him to leave immediately and drive to the hospital. The voice directed him to a parking space and led him to the entrance. He suffered a heart attack in the emergency room. With God's grace, he survived. Without that encounter with his guardian angel and divine guidance, the outcome of this story would be different.

2 Kings 20:1-21; Psalm 118; Luke 7:11-17

Monday, October 4

Psalm 106:1-18 There is joy for those who deal justly with others and always do what is right. (v.3)

Those who deal justly with others... Our national pledge includes "with liberty and justice for all." However, our current times as well as historical times are replete with injustice on many planes. Is it just and fair for some

groups to be treated with deference and other groups to be ignored or denied basic human rights? God has sent many who do good on a daily basis to defend and support those who have been mistreated. We pray for them and pray that God supports us also as we do good works. The ultimate justice and eternal joy are meted out by God alone.

2 Kings 21:1-18; 1 Corinthians 10:14–11:1; Matthew 8:28-34

Tuesday, October 5

Matthew 9:1-8 Jesus climbed into a boat and went back across the lake to his own town. Some people brought to him a paralyzed man on a mat. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "Be encouraged, my child! Your sins are forgiven." But some of the teachers of religious law said to themselves, "That's blasphemy! Does he think he's God?" (vv.1-3)

We are a nation of laws. We grant authority to judges, policemen, and other officials to uphold the laws. By and large, these officials are faithful to their sworn duties and order is maintained. However, we know that in more personal and informal relationships, human nature intervenes, and altercations occur. Surely you have heard this exchange when one person feels that another has passed a boundary: "Who gives you the right to do what you are doing? Where did you get your authority?"

This is exactly what the religious teachers thought as they questioned Jesus' authority to forgive sins. In their eyes he committed blasphemy. The religious teachers remained paralyzed in their mindset. But, by his authority, Jesus released the man of physical paralysis and gave him spiritual freedom.

2 Kings 22:1-13; Psalms 120, 121, 122, 123; 1 Corinthians 11:2, 17-22

Wednesday, October 6

Matthew 9:9-17 Later, Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with such scum?" (vv.10-11)

You know the adage, "You are known by the company you keep." Since childhood we have used personal judgement to select people we want to be with. As children we chose a friend who perhaps had a toy that we wanted to play with. We rejected another because he or she was mean or pushed others around. Our sorting process for friends and associates changed as we matured. We selected friends and social groups that fulfilled our need for community and were in our comfort zone.

In this reading, the Pharisees were indignant that Jesus would choose to break bread with the least desirable guests at Matthew's table. What Jesus showed us is that he loves everyone equally without regard to their status or circumstance. We all are loved.

2 Kings 22:14–23:3; Psalm 119:145-176; 1 Corinthians 11:23-34

Thursday, October 7

Matthew 9:18-26 Just then a woman who had suffered for twelve years with constant bleeding came up behind him. She touched the fringe of his robe, for she thought, "If I can just touch his robe, I will be healed." (vv.20-21)

How much risk are you willing to take? At what cost will you take matter into your own hands to achieve your purpose? This passage of the suffering woman has intrigued me once I learned about the cultural and societal backdrop on which this scene is painted. Crowds were flocking around Jesus as he made his way down a dusty road. An unclean woman, unclean by Jewish law,

desperately pushed and clawed her way through this throng just for the possible opportunity to touch the bottom hem of Jesus' cloak. She risked condemnation and personal safety. She risked it all, but her faith pushed her and led her to healing.

2 Kings 23:4-25; Psalms 131, 132, 133; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Friday, October 8

1 Corinthians 12:12-26 *So God has put the body together such that extra honor and care are given to those parts that have less dignity. This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other. If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad.* (vv.24b-26)

Harmony—what a beautiful state to attain! Harmony is the pleasant congruity of different parts, as in music. Notes play off one another to create peaceful and melodious sound. In harmonious relationships, people are at peace with each other; they are not fighting and arguing. In our reading, the image of the human body represents our community in Christ. Each person in community in Christ is unique and has their function within the group. The persons are in harmony, functioning to benefit the whole. The weakest parts are as vital as the more visible and seemingly stronger ones. With all our talents and abilities, we are one body in Christ.

2 Kings 23:36–24:17; Psalms 140, 142; Matthew 9:27-34

Saturday, October 9

1 Corinthians 12:27–13:3 *If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possess all knowledge, and if I had such*

faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. (vv.13:1-2)

Our community was host to a most provocative and entertaining guest. What an enlightening and renewing occasion to share an evening with the Presiding Bishop of our Episcopal denomination. Gathered in a monumental house of worship in our local area, we witnessed the bishop's joy and enthusiasm as he focused on and reinforced God's message of love. We are told to love one another as Christ loved us. Love defines our relationships with children, significant others, and friends. And we are to love the less loveable because all are loved by God. Love is the message. Love is everything.

Jeremiah 35:1-19; Psalms 137, 144; Matthew 9:35–10:4

TRINITY PRAYER LIST

Please remember in your daily prayers the following people who are sick or recuperating. New names are listed in bold

Aaron, Adam, Betty Jo, Caroline, Cathy, Connie, Craig, Dan, Davis, Debbie, Deborah, Debra, Dee, Doris, Erik, Frank, Jack & Pat, James, Janet, John, Jon, Kathleen, Laura, Lisa, Marci, Marilyn, Mario, Michael, Mike, Nancy, Paula, Phil, Rachel, Raymond, Rich, Richard, Robert, Rusty, Shannon, Sharon, Sonja, Tom, Vaughan, Veronica, Wendy, Wesley, Anne R. Adams, Dave Adams, Susan Anderson, Chuck B., Anne Barge, Maria Barnhart, Michael Barrett, Waldo Beck, Kevin Byrne, Angie Campbell, Sharon D., Alda Dell, Robin Dournaux, Neil Edwards, Bill & Pat Farr, Allan & Holly Feliciano, Pearle Galatas, Rose Gallup, Dorothy Gassel, Alice Glover, Tony Griswold, Barbara Harkins, Emily Hinkley, Rachel Hoffman, Barry Holliday, Edward Homendy, David Hunt, Russ Kidd, Scott Kizner, Sophie Manning, Karen Maxey, Jack McGraw, Godwin Nosa, Martha Old, Chip & Jeffrey Palmer, Heather Cameron Ploen, Winifred Relyea, Tina Revis, David Roberts, Jean Shiffert, Marianne Simpson, Anne Smith,

Sherry Tanner, John Thompson, May Jane Tillman, Susy Vargas-Soliz, Carlin, Teara & Caia Venaglia, Kelly Weber, Alda White, Jean Wilbur, Tom Williams, Alva Windham

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for the Church of Wales

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for Grace, Cismont (Keswick), St. George's (Fredericksburg), St. Stephen's (Culpeper) and Trinity (Washington)

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Sunday, October 3rd

Birthdays - Sally Bennett, Parker Bethem, David Grinnan, Walt Harrison

Anniversary - Blake and Aby Bethem

Wednesday, October 6th

Birthdays - Sug Clingenpeel, Karen Harrison, Maximus Meztista, Patsy Thompson

Anniversary - John and Diana Utz

Thursday, October 7th

Birthdays - Bruce Adkins, Penn Bryant, Becky Dagg

Friday, October 8th

Birthdays - Ken McSpadden, Nancy Russler

Saturday, October 9th

Anniversary - Chris and Michele Brantley

Sunday, October 10th

Birthdays - Bob Savage