

person's home. I certainly don't receive the same sense of joy, peace, and closeness to God by sitting at my computer typing, or scribbling lists of things to do. Christ has it right: Love before law; people before projects.

Ezekiel 13:1-16; Psalms 75, 76; Revelation 18:1-14

Today's Birthdays

Anne Barge, Edward Case, Bette Fugitt, Joan Rice

Today's Anniversaries

Sean & Dawn Meiers

Today's Calendar

Calendar for November 8, 2020

The Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

Rite II Spiritual Communion

Subscribe to our YouTube channel

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

9:30 am Virtual Coffee Hour on Zoom

10:30 am Sunday School online

2:00 pm Youth Group online

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; Anne R. Adams (Jeff's mom); Susan Anderson; Chuck B.; Anne Barge; Maria Barnhart; Archie Barrett; 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; **Jean Hunt**; Delane Lambert; Jack McGraw; William McSpadden; Winifred Relyea; Tina Revis; Jean Shiffert and family; Marianne Simpson; Anne Smith; Jason & Natasha Smith and their family; John & Sarah Swart; Dan Tallett; John Thompson; May Jane Tillman; Sheila Vickers-Smith; Carlin, Teara & Caia Venaglia; Kelly Weber; Alva Windham & family.

In the *Anglican Cycle of Prayer* we pray for **the Church of the Province of West Africa** 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 Congregations and clergy of Christ Church, Cunningham Parish, Millwood; and All Saints, Sharon Chapel, Alexandria.**

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 Nina George-Hacker

Used with permission from the

Bible Reading Fellowship

P.O. Box 380 Winter Park, FL 32790

Devotional readings for each day

Parish birthdays; anniversaries; calendar; and prayer list

Sunday, November 1, 2020

1 Corinthians 12:27—13:13 *“Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? Now eagerly desire the greater gifts.... And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”* (vv.29-31, 13 NIV)

Recently, when I went on a one-day spiritual retreat, I decided to sit quietly in the Center's magnificent chapel, and simply be in God's presence, not talking or asking for anything. But because the Holy Spirit has given me the gift of intercession, I couldn't help wanting to pray for others. Instead of verbalizing prayers, I began to imagine each person about whom I was concerned sitting with me in the pew. At first, there were those who were sick—even some cradling their ailing pets for whom I'd been praying. Next, a couple of friends and family who had already gone on to glory appeared in the chapel. It didn't take long for the pews to be filled with people for whom I love and care. Truly, I sensed their presence, and so much love! Later, when I spoke with my spiritual director, he smiled and said, “I've always been a firm believer in the communion of saints.” On this All Saints' Day, let us remember all “saints” both living and dead, giving thanks to God for their many gifts, and for the love with which they have blessed us.

Ezekiel 20:18-26; Psalms 24, 29; Matthew 18:21-35

Calendar for Sunday, November 1, 2020

All Saints' Sunday

Rite II Spiritual Communion

Subscribe to our YouTube channel

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

9:30 am Virtual Coffee Hour on Zoom

10:30 am Sunday School online

2:00 pm Youth Group online

4:00 pm Holding on to Hope at National Cathedral

<https://episcopalchurch.org/holding-hope>

Monday, November 2, 2020

Revelation 14:1-13 *Then I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them."* (v.13)

I love to hear this verse at the opening of our church's funerals. The deceased is finally at rest, after a life of hard work, suffering, and pain—the destiny of all humans ever since we fell from grace in the Garden of Eden. But thanks to our redemption by Jesus Christ, in God's heavenly kingdom healing and wholeness are ours at last. The good deeds no one noticed on earth will be blessed by God, and we will be assured that our labors for Christ were not in vain. In many Christian traditions, today is "All Souls' Day," when those who have died in the Lord are formally remembered. In liturgies held, often a candle is lit or a bell rung as their names are read aloud. In the pews, one can hear sniffing, and noses being blown into tissues. We never stop missing those who have died, even though the pain of bereavement lessens over time. I once read a Christian novel in which the author posited another dimension, just beyond what we can see, hear, and feel. There, our friends and family in heaven are so near we can almost touch them. How comforting it is, to believe that they, and our God, are just that close to us!

Ezekiel 20:27-44; Psalms 56, 57, 58; Luke 12:49-59

Today's Calendar

Tuesday, November 3, 2020

Luke 13:1-9 *"And he answered and said to him, 'Let it alone, sir, for this year too, until I dig around it and put in fertilizer; and if it bears fruit next year, fine; but if not, cut it down.'"* (vv.8-9 NASB)

My Dad grew fig trees in his suburban back yard, along with apple trees, grape vines, rose bushes, and zinnias. He wasn't always patient with his garden and, at times, I'd hear him yelling, "Grow! [cussword]!" at the seedlings. (That was before talking nicely to plants to help them flourish became popular.) Today, Jesus tells a story about a vineyard owner who was ready to cut down an unproductive tree. But the man's farm manager asks him to give the plant another year. With proper tending (water, fertilizer), it may produce fruit. In His mercy, Jesus gives us second—and sometimes third—chances to bear spiritual fruit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23a). Even though Dad sometimes cursed at his garden, he also fussed over it caringly, and it did produce delicious fruit and beautiful flowers. Our Lord also tends us with loving care, fertilizing our hearts with His word, and irrigating us with the water of life. So, let's bloom and bear fruit for Him!

Ezekiel 24:1-14; Psalms 61, 62; Revelation 14:14—15:8

Today's Calendar

Election Day

12 Noon Knaughty Knitters Online

5:00 pm Campus Ministry online

Wednesday, November 4, 2020

Psalm 72 *Whom have I in heaven but you? and having you I desire nothing upon earth.* (v.25 BCP)

At this point, my life is closer to its end than its beginning. When I glance at the obituaries in the newspaper, I notice far too many people passing away in their later middle-age. When I became officially a senior citizen, I expressed to my spiritual director my concern that not knowing how long I had left, I didn't want to waste the rest of my life. Rather, I wanted to serve God with all my heart as best I could, and not be found wanting. Father Frank, in his wise, and always laid-back manner, assured me: "God doesn't take us until He's finished with us—and He's finished with some of us sooner than later." I found that reassuring. Today, as I drove home from a medical test—one of many I've recently undergone for an as-yet undiagnosed condition—I thanked God that if He is going to call me home any time soon, my faith is now stronger, I am more at peace, and feel closer to Jesus than ever before. Truly, Christ is what I desire most in this life and the next—whenever that may come.

Ezekiel 26:1-14; Revelation 16:1-11; Luke 13:10-17

Today's Birthdays

Eowyn Arendt

Today's Calendar

Rite II Morning Prayer with Bambi

6:30pm Daughters of the King online

Thursday, November 5, 2020

Luke 14:18-30 *"The master said, 'Then go to the country roads. Whoever you find, drag them in. I want my house full! Let me tell you, not one of those originally invited is going to get so much as a bite at my dinner party.'"* (vv.23-24 *The Message*)

In my final year serving a previous parish, we had scheduled a spiritual retreat for the Vestry during a time on which everyone agreed. It was all planned, and then gradually, various members began calling to say they could not attend. There were quite a variety of creative excuses. The question remained: What were we to do? We had blocked out the days, paid for the space, and booked the Bishop's right-hand man as the facilitator. And then *he* cancelled on us! As I fretted, today's Gospel passage came to mind. Jesus wasn't talking about planning a party no one attends. He was speaking about the kingdom of heaven, and regretting that the Jews whom He came to save did not accept him as their Messiah, whereas the Gentiles did. Inspired by this story, I

decided to open the retreat to any parishioner that wished to attend. Three people accepted, and although we were small in number—and I had to lead it—the weekend was a time of excellent spiritual growth and discernment, as well as relaxation and fun together for everyone who came.

Ezekiel 29:17-21; Psalms 70, 71; Revelation 16:12-21

Today's Calendar

10:00 am Task Force to Plan to "Dismantle Racism" online

Friday, November 6, 2020

Revelation 17:1-18 *They will wage war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will triumph over them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings—and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers.* (v.14 NIV)

In our Adult Bible Study class this Fall, we'll be studying the Book of Revelation. I had taught this at the previous parish I served, where one member expressed concern about taking the class. She was afraid of the apocalyptic imagery and had always avoided reading Revelation. I told her, "All you have to know is: God wins in the end!" This comforted her enough that she took the class, and afterward said how much she appreciated learning about this intriguing text. Throughout the 32 years I've been a converted Christian, I've taken at least 5 classes on Revelation—one was even a Seventh Day Adventists' seminar. There is so much we simply do not understand in this complicated text that is so rich in biblical and cultural symbolism. So, I always return to the comforting truth of Scripture: "God wins in the end!" Amen!

Ezekiel 12:12-28; Psalm 69; Luke 13:31-35

Today's Calendar

Saturday, November 7, 2020

Luke 14:1-11 *Jesus asked the Pharisees and experts in the law, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath or not?" But they remained silent. So taking hold of the man, he healed him and sent him on his way.* (vv.3-4)

I love it that Jesus is willing to be a rule-breaker to be a people-healer. It's not that he doesn't care about God's laws. But for our compassionate and loving Lord, people take precedence over procedures. Besides, the Pharisees had tacked a bunch of man-made regulations onto the Ten Commandments, and it was these which Jesus contravened—not God's law. As a task-oriented, detail fanatic, sometimes I become caught up in the minutiae of the administrative work that accompanies my vocation, forgetting it would be better for me to get up from my desk and go visit a sick person or shut-in and pray with them. Too often, not until I make a pastoral visit, do I remember how blessed I feel when I leave that