



# The Whisper

**Christ the King Episcopal Church**  
**6400 North Socrum Loop, Lakeland, FL 33809**  
**863-858-1948**

**Mailing Address:**  
**P.O. Box 1176, Kathleen, FL 33849-1176**

January 26th, 2023

Serving SUNDAY 2/5  
Crucifer/ Acolyte— Joey B  
OT— Cassandra D.  
NT— Vicki L  
POP- Sharon R.  
Ushers: Alice B., Clyde H.,  
Debbie H.  
Altar Guild— Debbie G, Judy H.  
Vestry Counters— Jessica B &  
Betty P.  
Lock-Up — Jessica B.

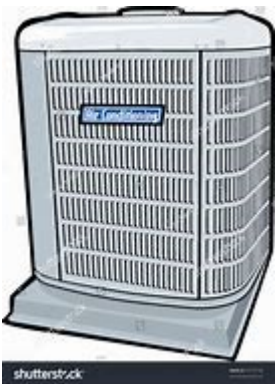
Our **Prayer Team** continues to pray for the needs of our church. Please be in touch with Joy Parker should you, a friend, or family member need to have prayers during this time of pandemic. Please feel free to send an email to Dr. Joy Parker at: [greatgg26@gmail.com](mailto:greatgg26@gmail.com). OR 863-712-5594

**Pray for your fellow Parishioners:**  
(this is a list of our parishioners which is rotated weekly)

Bruce Chandler, Elizabeth (Candi) Chandler, Betty Collins, James Coulp, Cherise Coney, Betty Constantino, John Constantino, Jimm Craddock, Doris Creech, Gary Creech, Debbie Dale, Jack Dale, Cassandra Dansby, Diane Davis, Mike Dellwo, Nora Dellwo, Clara Dinterman, Sandy Douglas, Roy Dwyer, Veda Dwyer, Danny Eckles, Carol Eckles, Dianne Esdale, Richard Esdale.

**Prayer for healing and wholeness for members, friends, and family.**

**People on Christ the Kings prayer list:** Connie, RoseMarie, Ed, Carolyn, Tony, Sandy, Ginny, Jaden, Annie, Nancy, Allan, Miranda, Howard, Paul, Patty, Marion, Whitney, the Edouard family, Jose, Jacqueline. All those effected by Covid 19,. Those who struggle with mental health issues, those who have committed suicide and the families they have left behind, and those who have been affected by disasters.



**New Air System**—our oldest air conditioning unit (35 years) has now been replaced. Our repair company has installed a new unit—the cost of which is \$6,450.00. We have received already \$3,825.00, with a balance of \$2,625.00

If you can help defer some of this cost by giving an extra donation—it would help us pay for the new system. Donations can be given through the offering on Sunday morning or dropping off a check when the office is open.

We appreciate those who have graciously made a donation to this appeal.

## 2023 Vestry Members:

Jessica Beck 2nd year of a 3 year term, Vestry Senior Warden 1st year.

863-815-7023 home phone, 863-660-3847 Cell phone

Josh Beck 1st of 3 year term, 863-815-7023 Home phone, 863-279-3104 Cell phone

Alice Bradshaw 2nd year of a 2 year term (2022), 760-803-0715 Cell phone

Betty Phillips 1st 3 year term, 863-529-0751 Cell Phone

Philip Williams 1st 2 year term, 863-712-3169 Cell phone

### Officers:

Carmen Ready, Treasurer

863-581-9956 Cell phone

Jo Ann Tatlian, Secretary

863-450-9193 Cell phone

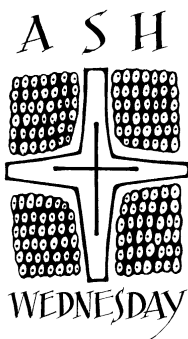


***OUR LENTEN JOURNEY BEGINS.....***

### SHROVE TUESDAY Pancake Dinner



The Date is February 21st, time is 5:30 p.m. We are looking for volunteers to help with this event. Please talk to Jo Ann if you are interested.



Ash Wednesday, February 22nd, we will be having two services:

1. 12:00 imposition of Ashes
2. 7:00 p.m. imposition of Ashes and Communion

5th Sunday in Epiphany,  
February 5th, 2023  
Bible Study—9:00 a.m.  
Praise Team—9:15 a.m.  
Worship -10:00 a.m.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### ***Monthly Activities-***

February 21st— Shrove Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.  
February 22nd- Ash Wednesday 12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m.

***EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND Study Groups—***  
**Sunday Morning Bible Study—9:00 a.m.**  
**Tuesday Bible Study—Every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.**  
**Saturday Morning Life Together Group - 1st and 3rd Saturday at 8:30 a.m.**

#### ***Meetings Hosted here at Church***

AA Meetings—see listing on bulletin board for times and days of the week  
Care Givers Support Group —2nd and 4th Thursday at 1:30 p.m.  
T.O.P.S., Thursdays at 8:30 a.m.

*Please note the loose Sunday Offering is designated for  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Mission  
and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Discretionary Funds*

This week's Anniversaries or  
Birthday's

No known Birthdays or Anniversaries

Given to the Glory of God—  
General Fund Offering last week was—\$5,417.00  
Air Conditioning Expense \$6,450.00,  
Donations \$3,825.00, Balance \$2,625.00  
Expenses \$2,028.20

#### **Church Office Hours:**

Monday-Wednesday 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. and  
Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

## 5th Sunday in Epiphany February 5th, 2023

### The Collect

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### Old Testament - Isaiah 58:1-9a, [9b-12]

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

[If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.

The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong;

and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.

Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.]

### Psalm 112:1-9, [10] - Beatus vir

1 Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the Lord \* and have great delight in his commandments!

2 Their descendants will be mighty in the land; \* the generation of the upright will be blessed.

3 Wealth and riches will be in their house, \* and their righteousness will last for ever.

4 Light shines in the darkness for the upright; \* the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

5 It is good for them to be generous in lending \* and to manage their affairs with justice.

6 For they will never be shaken; \* the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

7 They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; \* their heart is right; they put their trust in the Lord.

8 Their heart is established and will not shrink, \* until they see their desire upon their enemies.

9 They have given freely to the poor, \* and their righteousness stands fast for ever; they will hold up their head with honor.

[10 The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away; \* the desires of the wicked will perish.]

## **The Epistle - 1 Corinthians 2:1-12, [13-16]**

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him"— these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. [And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual. Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny. "For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.]

## **The Gospel—Matthew 5:13-20**

Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

## Good News Daily

Volume XXIII

February 5-11, 2023

Number 6

**Sunday, February 5**—John 7:37-46 *“If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink.”* (v.37 NIV)

Jesus talks about “streams of living water” that will flow forth from those who believe in him. Previously, Jesus had used the term “living water” to refer to eternal life in talking with the Samaritan woman at the well (4:10), but here he has reference to the Holy Spirit. The two go together, of course, because the Holy Spirit brings eternal life; but, at this point in the Gospel, the Holy Spirit had not been given to Jesus’ followers.

Verse 39 tells us that the Spirit had not been given because Jesus had not yet been glorified, probably referring to his crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension. The fullness of the Holy Spirit depended on Jesus’ prior work of salvation.

For the last 2,000 years, the Spirit has been available to those who believe in and follow Jesus. Do we live as ones to whom the Holy Spirit has been given? Are there streams of living water flowing forth from us to others? I recently heard a young man say, “I’ve been a Christian all my life. Yet, I have just now really come to know the Lord. I had thought I knew him, but now I know that what I knew was just a rumor.” Are we living in the Spirit, or just with a rumor of Jesus?

Isaiah 57:14-21; Psalms 93, 96; Hebrews 12:1-6

**Monday, February 6**—Mark 9:30-41 *They left that place and passed through Galilee.* (v.30a)

Typical of the Gospel of Mark, today’s lesson moves us quickly from one scene to another. We first have Jesus teaching his disciples and forecasting his Passion; then the disciples are arguing about who was the greatest; next, Jesus is using a little child to demonstrate that whoever welcomes little children welcomes him; and, finally, Jesus is telling his disciples not to stop a man who is driving out devils in his name. The reading might be called “A Day in the Life of Jesus.”

We can be confident that a day in the life of Jesus was filled with the variety of happenings that occur in our reading. He would have been constantly besieged by his disciples to know more about who he was and what was expected of them in following him. He would have been hounded by the people to see his miracles and to experience his healings.

We who call ourselves Christians are Jesus’ people in the world today. What he would do if he were physically present on earth, we are to do. As we think about a day in the life of Jesus, we need to ask ourselves about a day in our life. Is it filled with showing forth Jesus’ love and healing to those around us? If not, what will we do today to make it so?

Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 80; Galatians 6:11-18

**Tuesday, February 7**—Mark 9:42-50 *“And if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a large millstone tied around his neck.”* (v.42)

We live in a relativistic age in which sin is not taken very seriously, even by many Christians. There is a mood about that says that the word “sin” has been outdated. The attitude is that we live with too much guilt as it is. Of course, we make “mistakes,” but let’s not be too concerned about them. Instead, let’s affirm our right to do whatever we want to do so long as no one gets hurt.

This all-inclusive attitude has been carried so far that a leader of the Church could say, “God doesn’t really take sin all that seriously.” To such people, Jesus is love, and love is letting people go their own way and do their own thing.

Our reading for today shows the fatal flaw in that kind of thinking. Jesus uses very strong language here, so that his point cannot be missed. He not only takes sin seriously, but he warns us what will happen if we do not take it seriously. Not only are we in danger ourselves, but we are doubly in danger if our attitudes and actions cause others to fail to see the seriousness of sin.

And real love is “salty” love, tough love, that calls people to their best.

Isaiah 59:1-15a; Psalm 78:1-39; 2 Timothy 1:1-14

**Wednesday, February 8**—Mark 10:1-16 *Some Pharisees came and tested him by asking, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” (v.2)*

In another demonstration of tough love, Jesus condemns divorce. Again, the prevailing attitude today is not to take divorce very seriously. Many couples live together before getting married (what the Bible calls fornication) and “divorce” (that is, go their separate ways) before ever getting married in the first place.

Studies show that people who live together before getting married, and then do get married, are more likely to divorce than those who do not live together. What is the reason for this? If two people have had all the benefits of cohabitation without the covenant of marriage, what does the covenant mean to them anyway? A casual attitude about fornication leads to a casual attitude about divorce. Who cares what the Bible says?

We all know of cases where two people came to be at such antagonism toward one another that it was better for them to be divorced, and perhaps now they are happily married. We also know of many cases where the marriage could have been saved if the two people had taken their covenant seriously enough, and now they are either alone or in a worse marriage than the first one was. God hates divorce (Malachi 2:16). Even Christian people who are in a good second marriage will tell you to take divorce seriously. The feelings from that first marriage and toward that partner to the marriage do not end with the divorce, nor should they.

Isaiah 59:15b-21; Psalm 119:97-120; 2 Timothy 1:15—2:13

**Thursday, February 9**—Mark 10:17-31 *He went away sad, because he had great wealth. (v.22b)*

This story is not so much about money as it is about priorities. Jesus is hinting at his divinity in the first part of the exchange with the rich young man. Only God is good, yet the young man has called Jesus good. Jesus is asking, in a sense, “Do you know to whom you are speaking?”

There is then the matter of keeping the commandments. The young man thinks he has kept them, but as soon as Jesus tells him to go and sell all that he has, he shows that he has not. The first commandment is to love God with all that we have, but this young man obviously loved his money more than he loved God.

Lest we become too judgmental about the young man, we need to realize that we are all rich in something that we probably don’t want to give up for Jesus. Or fear that he will ask us to give up.

How, then, can we be saved? As Jesus tells his disciples, “All things are possible with God.” We can’t get our priorities right without the grace of God. We can’t love God unreservedly without His grace that can allow us to do so. We can’t give up the thing or things that stand between us and following Jesus. It is all grace, and it is all gift from God. He is the one who makes all things possible.

Isaiah 60:1-17; Psalms 83, 146, 147; 2 Timothy 2:14-26

**Friday, February 10**—Mark 10:32-45 *“Teacher,” they said, “we want you to do for us whatever we ask.” (v.35b)*

John and James want honored places in Christ’s kingdom. The disciples undoubtedly thought of the kingdom in earthly terms. The predictions of the Old Testament prophets had been interpreted by the Jews as providing for an earthly kingdom that would relieve Israel from domination by others (at this time, the Romans). James and John wanted positions of authority in this kingdom.

Jesus had just told the disciples once again what was going to happen to him, but they seem unable to believe it. Jesus uses the incident to do a teaching on what Christian leadership is all about. In Christ’s kingdom, we are called to be servants. Jesus has given us the example: “The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve.”

James and John were seeking glory without real sacrifice. There is, however, a cost of being a leader in Christ’s kingdom.

We saw that in yesterday’s lesson, when Christ called upon the rich young man to give up his wealth in order to follow him. And Jesus made no promise about what the young man would get in return.

So it is with us. Though we Christians are friends of God (John 15:15) and heirs of the kingdom (Romans 8:17), we are expected to throw off our royal robes, and wash the feet of others.

Isaiah 61:1-9; Psalm 88; 2 Timothy 3:1-17

**Saturday, February 11**—Mark 10:46-52 *Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”* (v.48)

Over the last several days, we have seen many instances of spiritual blindness on the part of Jesus’ followers. They have argued about who was the greatest. They have failed to understand Jesus’ statements about what was going to happen to him (his Passion). They have tried to stop someone who was doing good in Jesus’ name. They have rebuked people who wanted to bring little children to him. They have sought places of honor.

In today’s lesson, we see physical blindness. Just as Jesus can heal physical blindness, he can also heal spiritual blindness, and spiritual blindness is the more serious illness by far.

So, what do we learn from Blind Bartimaeus? We learn not to let others, even other Christians, divert us from getting Jesus’ healing help in our spiritual as well as physical needs. There are those who would discourage us because we ask for too much. There are those who don’t want us to get our hopes up and then be disappointed. They may mean well, as the disciples undoubtedly did in some of the instances above, but Jesus always wants more for us.

When you need help, let Bartimaeus be your example. Don’t let others rebuke you; shout all the more.

Isaiah 61:10—62:5; Psalms 87, 90; 2 Timothy 4:1-8

*by Harry C. Griffith*

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