



# The **Whisper** - Your Weekly Spiritual Message

June 29th, 2023

*Based on the “Way of Love” found on the Episcopal Church website  
Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, Shepherding Program*

## **Exploring and Living the Practices**

We invite you to take time exploring these practices for living a Jesus-centered life. Sit with the words from scripture and from the Book of Common Prayer, pray over the practice, reflect and discern where God is calling you, and note the “Helpful Terms” at the end if you want to learn a little more. And remember: no one follows Jesus all alone. The ideal way to live the Way of Love is in a community of love, support and accountability.

## **TURN: Pause, listen and choose to follow Jesus**

*As Jesus was walking along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he got up and followed him. – Mark 2:14 “Do you turn to Jesus Christ ...?” – Book of Common Prayer, 302*

Like the disciples, we are called by Jesus to follow the Way of Love. With God’s help, we can turn from the powers of sin, hatred, fear, injustice, and oppression toward the way of truth, love, hope, justice, and freedom. In turning, we reorient our lives to Jesus Christ, falling in love again, again, and again.

**For Reflection and Discernment** (you may wish to start a journal on “The Way of Life”)

- What practices help you to turn again and again to Jesus Christ and the Way of Love?
- How will (or do) you incorporate these practices into your rhythm of life?
- Who will be your companion as you turn toward Jesus Christ?

***To be continued in the following week’s “Whisper”.***

*Learn more about the Way of Love at [episcopalchurch.org/wayoflove](http://episcopalchurch.org/wayoflove).  
You can find suggestions on getting started and  
going deeper with *Practices for Jesus-Centered Life* .*

**Serving SUNDAY, 7/2**

**LEM— Jim A.**

**Crucifer/Acolyte— Malia U.**

**OT—Cassandra D**

**NT—Terri Y.**

**POP—Alice B**

**Ushers—Alice B., Diane D., Bill D.**

**Altar Guild— Debbie G., Judy Heath**

**Vestry Counters-Up—Alice B & Josh B**

**Lock-Up—Cliff G**

**Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.**

**Let us also pray for our fellow parishioners:**

Betty Collins, Cherise Coney, Betty Constantino, John Constantino, Jimm Craddock, Doris Creech, Gary Creech, Debbie Dale, Jack Dale, Cassandra Dansby, Diane Davis, Clara Dinterman, Sandy Douglas, Roy Dwyer, Veda Dwyer, Danny Eckles, Carol Eckles, Dianne Esdale, Richard Esdale.

**Let us pray for all those who suffer from any grief or trouble**

Connie, RoseMarie, Bruce, Debbie, Nancy, Sandy, Dr. Joy, David, Steven, Brian, Doris, Veda, Ashley, Cindy, Keira, Trish, Jim, Colin Family. All those affected by Covid 19.



**Pray for our Vestry and Administration:**

Mother Jacqueline Ponce, Priest in Charge

Jessica Beck, Senior Warden

Philip Williams, Junior Warden

Carmen Ready, Treasurer

Jo Ann Tatlian, Secretary/Parish Administrator

Josh Beck, Vestry Member

Alice Bradshaw, Vestry Member

Cliff Greene, Vestry Member

Betty Phillips-Hilliard, Vestry Member

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. Please feel free to send an email to Dr. Joy Parker at: [greatgg26@gmail.com](mailto:greatgg26@gmail.com) OR 863-712-5594

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**For Administration please contact:**

Jessica Beck / Senior Warden - [jessie@ctklakeland.com](mailto:jessie@ctklakeland.com) or

Jo Ann Tatlian / Parish Administrator [joann@ctklakeland.com](mailto:joann@ctklakeland.com)

**Office Hours**

Monday – 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Tuesday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Email: [Office@ctklakeland.com](mailto:Office@ctklakeland.com)

4th Sunday after Pentecost  
June 25th, 2023

**The Collect**

Almighty God, you have built your Church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone: Grant us so to be joined together in unity of spirit by their teaching, that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**Old Testament—Jeremiah 28:5-9**

The prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD; and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! May the LORD do so; may the LORD fulfill the words that you have prophesied, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the LORD, and all the exiles. But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet."

**Psalm 89:1-4,15-18—*Misericordias Domini***

- 1 Your love, O LORD, for ever will I sing; \* from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.
- 2 For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever; \* you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.
- 3 "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; \* I have sworn an oath to David my servant:
- 4 "I will establish your line for ever, \* and preserve your throne for all generations."
- 15 Happy are the people who know the festal shout! \* they walk, O LORD, in the light of your presence.
- 16 They rejoice daily in your Name; \* they are jubilant in your righteousness.
- 17 For you are the glory of their strength, \* and by your favor our might is exalted.
- 18 Truly, the LORD is our ruler; \* the Holy One of Israel is our King.

**The Epistle—Romans 6:12-23**

Do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves

to righteousness for sanctification.

When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**The Gospel—Matthew 10:40-42**

Jesus said, “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple-- truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”