

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



The **Whisper**

January 21th, 2021

**Are you Serving this Sunday? Please check the listing below:**

**Serving TODAY 1/24**

**OT**— Veda Dwyer

**NT**— Colleen Parrish

**POP**— David Biggs

**Ushers:** Carmen Ready, Alice Bradshaw,  
Jason Biggs

**Altar Guild**— Diane Holdrum, Carolyn Lowery,  
Claire Pechot

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 ONE ANOTHER**

Betty Collins, Cherise Coney, Betty Constantino, John Constantino, Doris Creech, Gary Creech, Debbie Dale, Jack Dale, Cassandra Dansby, Dianne Davis, Jan Dinnerville, Clara Dinterman, Sandy Douglas, Roy Dwyer, Veda Dwyer, Michael Ebersole, Patricia Ebersole, Danny Eckles, Carol Eckles, Dianne Esdale, Richard Esdale, Sylvia Farina, Rose Fernburg, Cecilia Fernburg, Grace Fernburg, Gabriel Fernburg, George Giesman, Pam Giesman.

**People on Christ the Kings prayer list:**

Chris, Christina, Brian, Jane, Joyce, Bernadette, Roy, Stephanie, Cyndi, Trudy, Vincent, Bob, Nick, Ron, Jason, Charlie, Craig, Ken, Jill and family, all those affected by Covid 19, those who have committed suicide and the families they have left behind, and those who have been affected by the recent hurricanes and wild fires.



**5th Sunday Dinner**—Brunch is being planned. The Cost is \$5.00 per meal. What you will be getting is a breakfast casserole, fruit, and croissant. You are encouraged to buy an extra one to take to your family, friends, neighbors  
There is a sign-up sheet in the Hallway.



**10th Annual Car Show**— February 13th, 2021. We have started collecting chips, pretzels, sodas, water, etc. You can drop them off on Sunday or during the week during office hours. If you are interested in helping with planning, or you wish to volunteer to work at the show, please, as always talk to Bob Springthorpe!

**PLEDGE CARDS**—If you have not submitted your 2021 pledge cards, we would appreciate your getting them into the office as soon as possible. We are in the process of finalizing our 2021 budget and your pledge card is important.

**Silent Auction to be Held at Car Show!**

A Silent Auction has just been added to the activities scheduled for the upcoming Christ The King Car Show on Saturday, February 13, 2021. The Silent Auction is being organized by the Endowment Fund Committee and the proceeds from the auction will be used to establish the initial endowment fund account. There will be a number of exciting items up for auction and the Committee is looking for additional donated goods to make the auction a success! Items should have a value of at least \$25.00 and appropriate for the auction. Please drop off the items at Church and if you have any questions, please see Deacon Ed.

**SUNDAY—**  
**JANUARY 24TH, 2021**

Worship 10:00 a.m.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

January 31st— Annual Meeting—following the service

5th Sunday Dinner

February 7th— Mission Sunday

February 13th—10th Annual Car Show

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

This week's  
Anniversaries &  
Birthday's

Debbie Hilliard, 1/25; George Giesman, 1/28

Given to the Glory of God—  
General Fund Offering last week was—\$2,358.00  
Expenses—\$1,971.83



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**2021 Flower Calendar** – There are a few more Open Sundays, they are listed below. Let me ([joann@ctklakeland.com](mailto:joann@ctklakeland.com)/863-858-1948) know via e-mail which ones you would like, should you not be able to get to the Flower Chart in the Hallway. It would be wonderful to have every Sunday covered! Arrangements are \$20.00 for one—\$40.00 for both. You can add it to your donation with a note in the MEMO of your check.. “Sunday Flowers”

The open Sundays are:

February 7, May 30, July 11, August 29, September 26,  
November 14, December 26

Please let Jo Ann Tatlian know what Sunday you would like!

**Church Office Hours:**

Monday-Wednesday 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon



# Annual Meeting—January 31st, following the service.

If you are not currently attending church, please feel free to come in during the week to fill out a ballot, or mail us a ballot (below)

## 2021 Candidates for the Vestry:

**Jim Aldridge:** My education, training and experiences in life and work are expansive. Decades of supervision of employees and management of facilities has provided me with a unique set of skills. I learned some time ago to listen to others. I place my future in the hearts of the congregation. I currently work diligently to support clergy, vestry, and the people of Christ the King Church. If given the opportunity to serve again as a member of the vestry team I will do so willingly. I serve my God by serving his people.

**Clifford Greene:** Cliff and Debbie Greene moved to Florida three years ago and joined Christ The King Church at approximately the same time. Cliff is a retired attorney who now lives in Lakeland. Since joining Christ The King Church he has been involved with the Endowment Fund Committee, the Choir, and the annual Boars Head production. He has also helped with the annual Car Show and assorted work parties. Prior to moving to Florida he attended St. Peters Episcopal Church in Freehold, New Jersey, where he served two terms on the Vestry and served as Rectors Warden. He also served as the Finance Chairman for a capital campaign to raise funds to rebuild the Church roof. He is a life long Episcopalian and hopes his experience can be a benefit to Christ The King Church.

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### 2021 Vestry Elections

January 31st, 2021

Ballots

We are filling TWO 3 year terms.

Please vote for TWO (2) of the following candidates. When you are finished voting, please fold in half and hold up for the tellers to collect.

Only qualified voters, as stated in the column next to this ballot, may vote in this election.

	Jim Aldridge
	Clifford Greene

You may vote, if you meet the following requirements of Canon XVII, Section 3.

“Only communicant members of a parish who are 16 years of age and over, whose names are duly enrolled as such in the register of said Parish, and who for the previous year have been faithful in corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented, and have been faithful in working, praying and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God, are entitled to vote on all matters coming before the Parish for a vote including the election of Vestry members. The vote of no person shall be questioned unless his or her right to vote shall be first challenged by a qualified elector. In the event of such challenge, the right of such person to vote shall be passed upon by a Committee of three appointed by the Rector (or in the event there shall be no Rector, then by the Senior Warden), and the findings of such committee shall be final and binding.”

## The Readings for The Third Sunday After Epiphany—January 24th, 2021

### Old Testament—Jonah 3:1-5, 10

The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, “Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

### Psalm 62:6-14—*Nonne Deo?*

6 For God alone my soul in silence waits; \* truly, my hope is in him.

7 He alone is my rock and my salvation, \* my stronghold, so that I shall not be shaken.

8 In God is my safety and my honor; \* God is my strong rock and my refuge.

9 Put your trust in him always, O people, \* pour out your hearts before him, for God is our refuge.

10 Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath, \* even those of low estate cannot be trusted.

11 On the scales they are lighter than a breath, \* all of them together.

12 Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no empty pride; \* though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.

13 God has spoken once, twice have I heard it, \* that power belongs to God.

14 Steadfast love is yours, O Lord, \* for you repay everyone according to his deeds.

### New Testament—1 Corinthians 7:29-31

I mean, brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

### The Gospel—Mark 1:14-20

After John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

# Good News

Volume XXI

January 24-30, 2021

Number 4

**Sunday, January 24**—Hebrews 10:19-31 *So now we must cling tightly to the hope that lives within us, knowing that God always keeps his promises!* (v.23 TPT)

By the time you read this, the whole COVID-19 scare will hopefully be safely in your rear-view mirror. However, right now, we're still in the thick of it, and it has brought many emotions to the surface—the worst of them being fear. People have been melting down right and left, and panic buying is the norm. Honestly, who thought it would be so difficult to find a hand sanitizer!

But even as I joke, I confess that I've lost my share of sleep over this. There are many unknowns, there is no vaccine, and people my age are dying from the disease. It's overwhelming. Yet it is in troubled times like these that I cling tightly to God's promises, just as the writer of Hebrew did. We are ruled by hope, not fear.

Though the virus scare is probably past, there are many things that cause us fear. But take heart! God *always* keeps His promises.

Isaiah 47:1-15; Psalms 63:1-11, 98; John 5:2-18

**Monday, January 25**—Galatians 1:1-17 *You know what I was like when I followed the Jewish religion—how I violently persecuted God's church. I did my best to destroy it.... But even before I was born, God chose me and called me by his marvelous grace.* (vv.13, 15 NLT)

This COVID-19 crisis has presented many opportunities for me to be petty, selfish, and ungrateful. I'd like to point my finger at the virus but, truthfully, it's not to blame. I don't need an excuse to behave badly. It comes naturally.

It's easy for me to dwell on my sinfulness—but when I do, I remember Paul. His behavior before the road to Damascus was reprehensible. He was an enthusiastic persecutor and murderer of Christians. Yet God chose him before his birth to become arguably the greatest evangelist of all time. Paul could have dwelt on his past bad behavior, but he chose to look forward toward the Lord's plan for his life.

Like Paul, I have a choice: look backwards at my sins and failures or look forward towards the “marvelous grace” that Jesus chose me for. It's a daily struggle choose to act against my nature but, with God's help, I can join Paul in choosing wisely.

Isaiah 48:1-11; Psalms 41, 52; Mark 5:21-43

**Tuesday, January 26**—Mark 6:1-13 *Jesus left that part of the country and returned with his disciples to Nazareth, his hometown. The next Sabbath he began teaching in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. They asked, “Where did he get all this wisdom and the power to perform such miracles?” Then they scoffed, “He's just a carpenter, the son of Mary and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon. And his sisters live right here among us.” They were deeply offended and refused to believe in him.* (vv.1-3 NLT)

During college I was a bit of a birdbrain. I got good grades, but emotionally and relationally I was very selfish and immature. However, after I graduated, I grew up personally, professionally, and spiritually. By the time I attended my ten-year reunion, I had a great career working for a Fortune 100 company and had led several Bible studies. I was a different person, yet many people at that reunion continued to treat me as a birdbrain. No amount of evidence could convince them otherwise.

This passage reminds me of that reunion. Since his baptism, Christ had grown into his full purpose and power as the Son of God, yet many in his hometown continued to see him as the scruffy kid who grew up under their noses. No amount of evidence could convince them otherwise.

I couldn't change the opinions of my classmates any more than Jesus could. However, I could choose whether to believe them or not. Christ knew his identity was found in God. As a Christ follower, so is mine. Is yours?

Isaiah 48:12-21; Psalm 45; Galatians 1:18—2:10

**Wednesday, January 27**—Galatians 2:11-21 *I have been crucified with Christ. My ego is no longer central. It is no longer important that I appear righteous before you or have your good opinion, and I am no longer driven to impress God. Christ lives in me. The life you see me living is not “mine,” but it is lived by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I am not going to go back on that.* (v.20 MSG)

Ever since I was born (and possibly before) I've been a Chicago Cubs fan. I was born in Chicago, and though we moved to various cities, the “Cubbies” always had my undivided loyalty. I grew up following the box scores in my local paper. When I entered the working world, I had a little statue of a bear wearing baseball cap on my desk. But there's one

thing about the Cubs that you might not know. During the last century, they never *won*. They hadn't won a World Series since 1907. Their nickname was the "Loveable Losers."

My poor Cubbies (and me by association) became the butt of many office jokes. But what they never understood is that my love for the Cubs wasn't based on others "good opinions." I loved the Cubs. Period.

So when I read this passage from Paul, I understood completely. It doesn't matter what others say, or how they make fun of me and ridicule my faith. My secular loyalty for my baseball team taught me that my ego isn't central. Because I love Jesus. Period.

Oh, and FYI, the Cubs did win the World Series in 2016. Never stop believing!

Isaiah 49:1-12; Psalm 119:49-72; Mark 6:13-29

**Thursday, January 28**—Mark 6:30-46 *Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, Jesus gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. They all ate and were satisfied.* (vv.41-42 NIV)

Sometimes I imagine myself in Bible stories, like this one about the miracle of Jesus feeding the five thousand with five loaves and two fish. If I were in that crowd, I'm sure I would have been awed by Christ's miracle. I'm also sure that, being a self-sufficient planner, I would have brought my own box lunch to the gathering. I would have shouted, "Praise God" while munching on my own store-bought loaves and fishes (from my favorite restaurant—not some scrawny, locally caught scrod). I would have been worshiping God with my "whole heart," but not with my "whole belly." I was okay with that.

But that was before COVID-19. This virus isn't something I can prepare for. Like the masses gathered around Jesus, I have a need inside me that can't be fixed by my own power. It's a need for healing rather than hunger, but that doesn't matter. I can't do this on my own. I've no choice but to rely on God's mercy, whatever form that takes. And, because of this, I finally realized what all those people discovered on that long-ago hillside.

It's not about the fish.

Isaiah 49:13-23; Psalm 50; Galatians 3:1-14

**Friday, January 29**—Psalm 40 *You are my helper and my savior. O my God, do not delay.* (v.17b NLT)

In the old but timelessly funny movie *Some Like it Hot*, downtrodden chorus girl Sugar Kane (brilliantly played by Marilyn Monroe) bemoans that she always seems to get "the fuzzy end of the lollipop." Though most of us don't have Sugar's problem of falling for low-life saxophone players (at least I hope not), I'm sure we can all relate to her lament. At one time or another, *all* of us have been stuck with the fuzzy end of the lollipop.

But no matter what trouble we are going through, we have a helper and a Savior, named Jesus. It doesn't matter if someone else caused our problem, or if we ourselves are to blame, the Lord is there to offer mercy, love, and forgiveness. Christ can make all things new—even fuzzy lollipops! Though it's generally a good idea to avoid low-life saxophone players.

Isaiah 50:1-11; Psalm 54; Galatians 3:15-22; Mark 6:47-56

**Saturday, January 30** Isaiah 51:1-8 *"The LORD will surely comfort Zion and will look with compassion on all her ruins."* (v.3 NIV)

In the 1942 movie *Casablanca*, Rick Baine, who is caught in a hopeless love triangle, says, "The problems of three little people don't amount to a hill of beans in this crazy world." Since the movie came out in the middle of World War II, it's understandable that the characters (and the audience), felt their own problems didn't matter much compared to that overwhelming war. Yet the unspoken truth behind Rick's words is that the problems of "three little people" *do* matter a great deal—to those three little people. Those problems also matter to God.

In the ancient world, a small kingdom called Israel was conquered by Assyria, who in turn fell to the global power Babylon. As one of many, many fallen nations, no one gave a "hill of beans" to the plight of the Jews. But God cared. As Isaiah records, the Lord "looked with compassion on all her ruins." Though they were only unimportant slaves, God cared about the problems of the Israelites. And eventually He led Zion back to her home.

Sometimes our problems seem small compared to "more important" conflicts. But God always cares for your "ruins." They are never insignificant to Him, and He will always lead you home.

Psalm 55; Galatians 3:23-29; Mark 7:1-23

*by Ruth Owen*

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