

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



The **Whisper**

April 15th, 2021

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

PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER

COVID 19— A REMINDER

In keeping with the guidelines from the Diocese of Central Florida, **we will not be having services on Sunday, April 18th.**

Sunday Service and weekly activities will resume April 25. The Vestry and The Daughters of the King meetings will move to April 25th.

One of our members has tested positive. The Vestry and Mother Carolyn felt that it would be appropriate for our service this coming Sunday to be canceled.

This is a precautionary action, hoping to keep all of our members safe.

Nancy March, Roger Miller, Ray Miller, Katherine Munday, Susan O'Brien, Joy Parker, Kevin Parrish, Colleen Parrish, Mitchell Parrish, Alexander Parrish, Makensie Parrish, Lorraine Pavlisko, Phil Pavlisko, Claire Pechout, Betty Phillips, Barbara Pixley, Penn Pixley, Linda Plourde, Carmen Ready, Ronnie Ready, Marilyn Rizzo-Ferris, Sharon Rogers, Craig Ruchalski, Louis Sequin, Bob Springthorpe, Marilyn Springthorpe, Iris Stackpole, Leroy Stackpole, Bonnie Strait

People on Christ the Kings prayer list:

Chris, Christina, Brian, Joyce, Betty, Sandy, Joshua, Pedro, Sean, Vanessa, Bobby, Becky, the Tucker Family, Lynn, John, all those affected by Covid 19, especially Alicida, Tito those who have committed suicide and the families they have left behind, and those who have been affected by disasters.

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. OR 863-712-5594

Storm Damage, from last Sunday, March 11th—we have a lot of limbs and branches scattered around our property. Jim Aldridge has spent most of his mornings here working on the area around the building. If you have time to come by, to help clean up the others of our property, it would be greatly appreciated. There are rakes in the metal storage unit on the property, branches can be put in dumpster—if its full pile everything up next to it and it will be put in when it's empty.

SUNDAY-APRIL 18TH, 2021

NO WORSHIP SERVICE

SUNDAY-APRIL 25TH, 2021

Woship—10:00 a.m.

Vestry Meeting following the service

Daughters of the King, 2:00 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monthly Activities-

Study Group—

The 1st and 3rd Saturday at 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday Bible Study—

Every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.

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

This week's
Birthday's or Anniversaries

Jason Biggs, 4/22, Debbie Greene, 4/25, Ginny Bagge,
4/27

Given to the Glory of God
General Fund Offering last week was—**\$2,605.50**
Expenses—**\$703.24**

Church Office Hours:

Monday-Wednesday 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

CHURCH ADDRESS UPDATE—If you send anything
to church via the mail, please use the following address:
P.O. Box 1176, Kathleen, FL 33849-1176

The Readings for 3rd Sunday of Easter, April 18th, 2021

The First Lesson—Acts 3:12-19

Peter addressed the people, “You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. “And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.”

Psalm 4—*Cum invocarem*

- 1 Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause; * you set me free when I am hard-pressed; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.
- 2 "You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory; * how long will you worship dumb idols and run after false gods?"
- 3 Know that the LORD does wonders for the faithful; * when I call upon the LORD, he will hear me.
- 4 Tremble, then, and do not sin; * speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.
- 5 Offer the appointed sacrifices * and put your trust in the LORD.
- 6 Many are saying, "Oh, that we might see better times!" * Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O LORD.
- 7 You have put gladness in my heart, * more than when grain and wine and oil increase.
- 8 I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep; * for only you, LORD, make me dwell in safety.

The Epistle—1 John 3:1-7

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

The Gospel—Luke 24:36b-48

Jesus himself stood among the disciples and said to them, “Peace be with you.” They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

GOOD NEWS DAILY

Volume XXI

April 18-24, 2021

Number 16

Sunday, April 18—John 21:15-25 *Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.* (v.25 NIV)

I was struck by this passage, the last verse of John's Gospel. Jesus' teachings, lessons, miracles, and healings were so numerous that the Bible only gives us a glimpse of his ministry. He is limitless. There is so much we don't know about God. There is no way to have a complete understanding, and that's okay. It's part of the mystery.

In *Jesus Calling*, Sarah Young reminds us that God is a God of abundance: "I will never run out of resources. My capacity to bless you is unlimited." That's wonderful news, something we can trust and hold onto each and every day. When we're empty, God's love and provision are overflowing. Thanks be to God.

Daniel 4:1-18; Psalms 148, 149, 150; 1 Peter 4:7-11

Monday, April 19—Psalm 25 *To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted. The troubles of my heart have multiplied; free me from my anguish.* (vv.1, 16-17)

Sometimes it's a long journey from offering up our prayers, our cries for mercy and help to God, to knowing that they were heard and giving Him thanks and praise. The important thing is knowing He hears our prayers, knowing He catches every tear we shed and holds them close. There is such joy and comfort upon such realization in one's own life.

I've been going through a cleaning, purging, and reorganization phase during recovery from knee replacement surgery that was compounded by the pandemic restrictions. Reviewing old photos and journals, finding keepsake letters, notes, and special cards, has been a journey through a lifetime, one that has been colored with wonderful times and some that were quite sad and painful. It's been so obvious to me that the Lord has been my constant companion through it all. My heart is full as I give Him praise and glory for His constant love.

Daniel 4:19-27; 1 John 3:19—4:6; Luke 4:14-30

Tuesday, April 20—1 John 4:7-21 *Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.* (vv.7-8)

This passage has a special meaning since it was chosen for me as part of my Cursillo experience many years ago.

God is love. That sounds so simple yet it's so profound. Love truly is the answer to virtually everything, to our relationships in families and community but also on a much broader scale. The times we're living in are turbulent: COVID-19 pandemic, police brutality by some unethical officers, riots, protests, anger, injustice, racial discord. How do we cope, how do we bring bitterly opposing sides together, how do we find peace?

As my denomination's wise Presiding Bishop Michael Curry repeats so often, the answer is through love, love that comes from God, love that is God. The supreme law of God is to love God with all your heart and to love your neighbor as yourself. When we see others through God's eyes, we will love others, treat them with decency, compassion, and respect. We will stand together, bring our voices together, and join hands. Bishop Curry also reminds us that love is a choice, a daily choice we make. When we choose love, we become unselfish, putting others before ourselves. We see other people, all people, as children of God, created by Him just as we have been. If everyone would put the welfare of others first, then we would come together as brothers and sisters, as siblings. Thank you, Bishop Curry, for your continual reminder of who we are and Whose we are.

Daniel 4:28-37; Psalms 26, 28; Luke 4:31-37

Wednesday, April 21—Luke 4:38-44 *When the sun was setting, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them.* (v.40)

The Healing Ministry at my church has provided a loving, warm, and safe family for me for over twenty years. Initially I entered with a broken spirit, a wounded and hurting heart, a frightened and fearful child of God. My long-term marriage crumbled and was heading to divorce. My hopes and dreams were gone. The color seemed to have drained from my life as the world appeared to offer only shades of black and white. It was a sad time, a hard time.

Healing and curing are not the same. My intention was for God to cure my marriage, to bring it back from the

grave and restore it to its previous state. Over several years God instead brought healing to me, body, mind, and spirit, and even to the relationship with my former husband. My marriage wasn't "cured" but I was healed. The Lord wants us to be whole and He truly knows what's best for us.

Daniel 5:1-12; Psalm 38; 1 John 5:1-12

Thursday, April 22—Psalm 37:1-18 *Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him.* (v.7)

I live alone so there is ample time and opportunity for being still, for silence, but I find I often fill the house with sounds and voices from television and other technology. As with anything, it takes practice and patience to turn off all the outward stimuli so that we can calm our spirits, rest, and begin to hear the Lord speaking.

The following poem by Dame Paul Fairlie, a Benedictine nun, beautifully reflects the gift of silence with our Lord:

In the ground of your being I have my home so do not seek me in the world apart. Within your spirit true communion lies. You are no homeless stranger in a land afar no alien in a foreign shore, for I am with you. Do but be still and know that I am God. I look upon the world with your dark eyes; I feel the flowing air on your cool cheek; I hear the twittering in the moving trees, for with your senses I perceive. I am with you, I am within you. So do not turn away but come to rest in me. Within you is our meeting place. But be still, and I will speak in silence to your loving, wayward heart.

Daniel 5:13-30; 1 John 5:13-21; Luke 5:1-11

Friday, April 23—Luke 5:12-26 *When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven."* (v.20)

This story of the paralytic brought to Jesus for healing highlights important lessons for me. Here is a man being brought by his friends to Jesus, but they could not get him close enough for the healing they so desperately wanted for him. Being undeterred, they took him to the roof top where an opening was made to lower him down in front of the Healer. What faith these friends had! We don't know anything about the paralytic's own faith, but we can appreciate the determination of his friends. In our healing service, we speak of bringing our concerns to God "on the stretchers of our prayers." What an image. Haven't you been lifted up and loved by others when you were too weak or wounded to ask for your own healing? I have and it's beautifully humbling.

Jesus also calls the man friend, such a personal and intimate reassurance that he knows and cares for each of us personally. Often our healing may be stifled by unforgiveness of something we have not released to God for redemption. Here, the paralytic receives three precious gifts: the love of friends, the love and healing of God, and the forgiveness of sins. Wow.

Daniel 6:1-15; Psalm 105:1-22; 2 John 1-13

Saturday, April 24—3 John 1-15 *We ought therefore to show hospitality to such men so that we may work together for the truth.* (v.8)

In this passage John is explaining the importance of hospitality as missionaries and traveling teachers were cared for on their journeys to spread the good news of Jesus Christ.

Do you know people whose gift is hospitality? Their welcome is genuine, and it seems so easy for them to receive friends, family, and sometimes even strangers into their homes at a moment's notice. My parents had that gift, especially my father. When the door opened, he met folks with a smile, a hug, or a handshake, and before you could catch your breath, he was asking what liquid refreshment you preferred. I remember on several occasions, someone would arrive about dinner time and always, without exception, another place was set at the table. Just as with the loaves and fishes, there was enough food for all.

Genuine hospitality shows love and acceptance of others. It makes people feel welcomed and valued. It's exactly what our Heavenly Father does for us. When I would anticipate a possible future visit back home, my dad's response was, "Come when you can! The door is always open!" What a beautiful example I've been given by my earthly and heavenly fathers.

Daniel 6:16-28; Psalms 30, 32; Luke 5:27-39

by Suzanne McKee

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