

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



The **Whisper**

September 23rd, 2020

Sunday Worship will resume at 10:00 a.m.
We will be inside in the sanctuary, with masks and social distancing.

A Message from Mother Carolyn:

Dear Christ The King family,

On November 22nd we will be celebrating the 35th anniversary of Christ The King. We began as a church plant from our mother church, All Saint's, in Lakeland in 1984. On January 25th, 1985 at the 22nd Diocesan Convention we formally became a mission. The Bishop will be joining us, to help celebrate our anniversary

Last year, I began thinking of having a grand Party to celebrate. My plan was to have history gathering dinners throughout this year, with groups from each Priests era. Then have a final dinner with everyone, to tell the whole story of Christ The King from 1984- 2020. Unfortunately, earlier this year it became evident that this would not be feasible. I had to wait and see what would be possible.

Through this year we have continued to work on a plan. With the help of several volunteers we went through boxes from the attic to collect important documents. We had a volunteer type up important events in the early life of the church. We asked Diane, Claire and Deacon Kate to label old pictures. Deacon Kate has been going through the vestry minutes, from past years and will put together a summery for each year. The Vestry minutes, Annual reports and other important documents will be placed in archival sleeves and folders for safe keeping. Jessie and Sarah have graciously volunteered to shepherd the reception. David and Josh will work together to create a digital presentation and interviews with old and new members of the congregation.

We still need plenty of help to bring this together. Many hands make light work, I would like to form a task force, to create a presentation and celebration for the congregation and the Bishop. If you are interested in helping, contact me. I will set dates and times for meetings, depending on the availability of those who are interested.

We will need some help with typing,
Putting important documents in sleeves and folders
And other duties as needed

Closer to Nov.22

A cleanup day inside and out.
Assembling bulletins
Food for the reception.
Decorating
Help with set up and cleanup of the reception
Blessings,

Mother Carolyn

Christ the King turns 35 this year. As we Celebrate this Anniversary we are pleased to welcome Bishop Gregory Brewer.



If you are not currently a member but are interested in becoming one, either by Baptism, Confirmation, being received or re-affirmation. Please speak to Mother Carolyn, so that the appropriate arrangements can be made.



Please note Mother Carolyn and Jo Ann Tatlian have resumed regular office hours.

Office Hours are: **Monday through Wednesday, 9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.**
Thursday, 9:00 a.m.—12:00 noon

We need your help. To prepare for our Anniversary we are looking for pictures from the Ground Breaking, coneraction of the building, when we became a mission, when we became a church. Basically, any pictures of important events here at Christ the King. We are also looking for any Annual Reports, minutes, bulletins, newsletters, all of these will help put an accurate history together for our church. Please make sure Mother Carolyn receives this information.

SUNDAY—SEPTEMBER 27TH, 2020

Worship, 10:00 a.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- October 3rd— **Men's Study**—8:30 a.m.
October 4th— **Mission Sunday**—Kid's Pack
Blessing of Prayers Shawls
Blessing of the Animals at 3:00 p.m.
October 17th— **Men's Study** - 8:30 a.m.
October 18th— **Vestry Meeting**—12:00 noon

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

PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER

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: greatg26@gmail.com or call her at 863-712-5594



JoEllen Gibson, George Giesman, Pam Giesman, Jim Giles, Christopher Gray, Debbie Greene, Clifford Greene, Jean Hager, Angel Heist, Rich Heist, Karissa Heist, Neila Heist, Jacob Heist, Nathaniel Heist, Debbie Hilliard, Diane Holdrum, Susan Johnson, Dewey Johnson, David Kinder, Helen-Ann Kinder, Christina Lee, Edna Leimbach, Gordon Leimbach, Beryl Lemmond, Marilyn Lowe, Carolyn Lowery, Tony Lowery.

People on Christ the Kings prayer list:

Chris, Christina, Brian, Chuck, Charlotte, Debbie, Pricilla, Jim A., Jonathan, Roy, Lee, Doris, Joanna, Santos and Anna, Jan Calvin, Edward, Joyce, Ty, Jane, Dianne, all those affected by Covid 19 and those who have been through the recent hurricanes. .

**There are no Anniversaries this week—
Birthday's for this week—** Joy Parker, 9/28; Anne Therrien, 9/28

Given to the Glory of God—from September 16th, 2020—September 21th, 2020

General Fund Offering —**\$5,429.00**

Expenses -**\$3,537.73**

Kids Pack—Is looking for a ***warehouse worker***. It would be for 20-30 hours a week, using a Fork Lift. Please contact them directly at [**\(863\) 272-7927**](tel:8632727927). They are located at 3725 Frontage Rd N #1, Lakeland, FL. 33810

We are looking for someone who uses E-Bay, Let Go, Mercari to sell items.

We have received donations that might have some value, and are looking for someone to manage an account where we would be able raise funds to be used for our congregation.

For more information please speak to Mother Carolyn or Jo Ann at the office.

We are STILL looking for someone to ***Coordinate our Ushers***,
Debbie Hilliard has served for the last 4 years in this capacity.
She is now asking that someone else take that responsibility over.
If you are willing please speak to Mother Carolyn.

Save your **SHOEBOXES, at HOME**,
We will be needing them in the
Fall for a Christmas project.

Old Testament- Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-32

The word of the LORD came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die. Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

Psalms 25:1-8—*Ad te, Domine, levavi*

- 1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; * let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; * let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O LORD, * and teach me your paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, * for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.
- 5 Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, * for they are from everlasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; * remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.
- 7 Gracious and upright is the LORD; * therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- 8 He guides the humble in doing right * and teaches his way to the lowly.

New Testament—Philippians 2:1-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The Gospel—Matthew 21:23-32

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

Sunday, September 27—James 3:1-13 *All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.* (v.7 NIV)

I daresay that all of us have at one time or another found that our own tongues are difficult to “tame.” We say words that hurt others, words we regret and wish we hadn’t said. It is perplexing that this same hurtful tongue can also speak kind words of love, forgiveness, and understanding. James says this in verse 10: “Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be.”

It is such a terrible feeling we get when we blurt out a reaction without first thinking about the effect our words will have on another person. Those “evil” words seem to hang out there in the air in front of us and we wish with all our heart that we could retract them. Sometimes we realize our mistake immediately, but other times it may be days or weeks before we reflect on what we have said. It requires the Holy Spirit and humility to admit to and repent of our verbal sins.

Dearest Lord Jesus, thank you for your love and forgiveness. May my heart overflow with your love as you help me to tame my tongue.

Hosea 2:2-14; Psalms 66, 67; Matthew 13:44-52

Monday, September 28—Luke 5:1-11 *Then Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will catch men.” So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.* (vv.10b-11)

What an incredible turn of events this was for Peter, James, and John, partners in the fishing business. I cannot imagine what a strong influence Jesus’ words must have had on these men to make them willing to leave behind their livelihood, families, and friends in order to become “fishers of men.” Do you think you would have had that kind of courage? It certainly wouldn’t have seemed logical or rational, would it? Only by the power of the Holy Spirit working in their hearts could this have been possible.

This scene reminds me of a prayer that a very godly woman shared with me early in my walk with Jesus: “I am willing to be made willing to *receive* whatever you send, *relinquish* whatever you take, *lack* whatever you withhold, *suffer* whatever you permit, *do* whatever you tell me to do, and *be* whatever you want me to be.” Amen.

Hosea 2:14-23; Psalm 89:1-18; Acts 20:17-38

Tuesday, September 29—Luke 5:12-26 *But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.* (v.16)

I wrote in my Bible next to this verse, “We need to do this.” As I looked at my written words, not knowing how long ago I might have penned them, I decided to strike through the “We” and replace it with “I.” Perhaps I did this because this verse convicts my spirit that I need to get alone, be quiet, and pray much more often than I actually do.

Thinking about Jesus and his roughly three years of ministry on earth, I am increasingly fascinated by how close he was to his Father. Living and ministering in a human society, with his following growing, he must have found it very difficult to find time to get alone for prayer. There were always people wanting his healing touch and desiring to hear him teach and preach. If sinless Jesus often withdrew for prayer, how much more do I, a sinful person, need to do this?

Thank you, Jesus, for your ever-living words and for the gift of the Holy Bible which reveals details of your life on earth. Thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit which opens our hearts and minds to your love, forgiveness, and saving grace. Help me to pray more and more.

Hosea 4:1-10; Psalms 97, 99, 100; Acts 21:1-14

Wednesday, September 30 -Luke 5:27-39 *After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. “Follow me,” Jesus said to him, and Levi got up, left everything and followed him.* (vv.27-28)

This tax collector, Levi, is Matthew—who ended up writing one of the four Gospels. Tax collectors were a hated and reviled group of men, generally considered crooks. Whenever the self-righteous Pharisees spoke of tax collectors, they clumped them together with “sinners.” Imagine the Pharisees’ astonishment when they heard that Jesus and disciples had gone to a “great banquet” (v.29) at Levi’s home! They could hardly believe it, and when they questioned the disciples about it, Jesus overheard and made a statement that put the Pharisees in their place.

Jesus made a classic statement that merits pondering. He said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance” (vv.31-32). The Pharisees were clueless!

Please forgive me, Lord Jesus, for not associating with those who need to know you. Please make me bolder in sharing you with others.

Hosea 4:11-19; Psalms 101, 109; Acts 21:15-26

Thursday, October 1—Luke 6:1-11 *The Pharisees and the teachers of the law were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal on the Sabbath. But Jesus knew what they were thinking.* (vv.7-8a)

The Pharisees just kept hammering, trying to catch Jesus breaking one of their laws so they could squelch his radical teaching. But they didn’t stand a chance because Jesus always knew what they were thinking and always had an answer that they couldn’t refute.

God knows what our thoughts are. That is hard to wrap one’s mind around. He knows my thoughts and therefore knows not just my good thoughts, but also the bad ones. Ugh! I am a sinner, and even though I try to walk with the Lord, I still have evil thoughts sometimes. Hopefully, the longer I walk with Him, the good thoughts will continue to increase, and the bad ones will decrease. The trick here is to keep my eyes on Jesus—confessing, repenting, and accepting his forgiveness, love, and compassion.

I thank you, Lord Jesus, that you know me better than I know myself. Thank you for never leaving me, even though my sins hurt you. Thank you for sacrificing your life so that mine might be saved.

Hosea 5:8—6:6; Psalm 105:1-22; Acts 21:27-36

Friday, October 2—Luke 6:12-26 *One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he designated apostles.* (vv.12-13)

Again, Luke tells of Jesus spending time in prayer with his Father. This time it was the entire night! I have a hard time praying for more than five or ten minutes at a time, so I can’t begin to comprehend praying all night long. It is noteworthy that the next morning is when he chose his inner circle, the twelve apostles. The footnote in my Bible also says, “Make sure that all your important decisions are grounded in prayer.” Good reminder!

I think that *all* my decisions should be grounded in prayer, though in reality they are not. It seems easier to pray longer and harder during my rough times than when my life seems to be going well. There is something about hardship that sends me to my knees, while I tend to rush through my prayers when things are going well. Often, I forget that the blessings of the good times are an absolute gift from the Lord.

Thank you, Lord, for your infinite patience with me. Teach me to be a better and more frequent “prayer.”

Hosea 10:1-15; Psalm 102; Acts 21:37—22:16

Saturday, October 3—Luke 6:27-38 *“Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”* (v.38)

This verse in *The Message* reads, “Give away your life; you’ll find life given back, but not merely given back—given back with bonus and blessing. Giving, not getting, is the way. Generosity begets generosity.” Food for thought.

Verse 38 could be a banner verse for a stewardship campaign, or a guiding principle in how to live a rewarding life. Whether it’s generosity with our resources or with our time, it always holds true that God blesses us when we are generous. Another blessing that occurs when we take time to do something that we know the Lord wants us to do, but maybe we really don’t want to do, is that we feel good afterwards—often to our surprise. I think I’m going to be a blessing another person, but I myself come away feeling blessed.

Thank you, Lord, for showing us the blessing of being generous.

Hosea 11:1-9; Psalms 107:33-43, 108; Acts 22:17-29

by Anna Cash

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