

*Good News Daily*  
*Good Shepherd Episcopal Church and School*

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**Sunday, August 2**

Judges 6:1-24 So Gideon built an altar to the Lord there and called it The Lord is Peace. (v.24a NIV)

The angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon and exclaimed, “The Lord is with you, mighty warrior” (v.12). This remarkable greeting opened a conversation in which Gideon asks good questions and declares himself weak. In fact, he laments, “My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family” (v.15). What follows is even more remarkable than the greeting from the angel. Did you notice?

Whereas the angel addressed Gideon at first, the Lord Himself replied to his expressions of humility and reverence. I find the Lord’s words reassuring and His actions mystifying. In verse 16, He declares, “I will be with you,” which is amazing enough. And when Gideon asks for a sign that it is really the Lord speaking and asks for time to bring an offering, the Lord replies, “I will wait until you return” (v.18).

What an encouraging thought to recognize God sees us, hears us, and even waits for us! In our uncertainty, may we remember He is faithful. When we feel alone, may we recall God is with us, whether we sense His nearness or not. In His presence is our peace.

Psalms 93, 96; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15; Mark 3:20-30

***Include in your prayers:*** Cindy Croushore, Sandy, Mirabelle Wrist, Janie Greene, Joey Mitchell, Wally Bates, Drew Fogg, Patricia Malloy, Patricia Vreeland, Roland and Josh Munoz, Ashley Munoz, Darcy Munoz, Bob Sprague, Mark Connell, Stan and Shirley Connell, Janet Hullihen, Mindy Nash, Shannon Smith, Sally Loetell, Nancy Giammusso, Scott Belair, Dr. Jim Dhrymes, Priscilla Marshall, Natalie Johnson Devries, Tom, Alden Smith and family, Marilyn, Victor, Mary Imle and Frank Harris, Eric O’Neal

**Monday, August 3**

John 1:1-18 From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. (v.16)

As the Gospel according to John opens, we see Jesus exalted as the God who is with us and for us. The author reminds us that from the fullness of his grace we have all received blessing upon blessing. While reading that verse, my mind took me on a heartwarming journey of recalling one blessing after another. Like the blessing of being raised by loving parents. Like the tiny neighborhood church where my faith was ignited as a little girl, and the school where knowledge was added to faith, and prayer and worship watered the seeds that were planted.

So many faces of loved ones came to mind—friends and family, even coworkers who are now as close as siblings. I recalled my sweet pets, kind neighbors, and the joy of meaningful work and using my gifts to bless others. I thanked God for the gift of health and the ability to see my beautiful children, hold hands with my husband, behold a sunrise, hear songs, smell roses, and walk, run, and dance!

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ” (Ephesians 1:3). May our lives be expressions of our grateful hearts.

Judges 6:25-40; Psalm 80; Acts 2:37-47

***Include in your prayers:*** Nico Clothier, Julia Montgomery, Sarah Lawler, Rob Steiner, Pam Heatley, Jimmy Gustafson, Carlos Salmán, Arnie Selna, Stephen Johnson, Jr. & Jennifer Corson, Todd Baron, Sean Uthe, Clay F., Jake Graybill, Kristian Joseph, Charles Cathers, Jr., Jessica Backman, Amanda Smith, Dave and Marion, Barbara Gustafson, Kevin Fitzgerald, Dale Dixon, Deanna Miller, Susan Feldman, Marie Valencia

## **Tuesday, August 4**

John 1:19-28 *“I am the voice of one calling in the desert, ‘Make straight the way for the Lord.’”* (v.23)

John the Baptist’s ministry succeeded. He was the voice calling in the desert, “Make straight the way for the Lord” (John 1:23). He proclaimed one who was so worthy of worship that untying his sandals would be an unspeakable honor.

John’s message came on a certain day in Bethany, on the other side of the Jordan River. While baptizing people there, he announced the one he knew was coming. And then, we are told, the very next day, John saw Jesus coming toward him and praised him as the very Lamb of God!

I find this story so encouraging. Why? As we preach the gospel ... as we speak of Jesus ... as we proclaim his goodness and praise his faithfulness and announce his coming ... *one day, we get to see him coming toward us!* One day we get to say with John, “Look, the Lamb of God who took away my sins! Behold, my Savior lives, so I, too, live. Hallelujah!”

Judges 7:1-18; Psalm 78:1-39; Acts 3:1-11

***Include in your prayers:*** Karin Armbruster, Ricardo Acuña, Charlie Gasperino, Joanna Aras, Kay Bailey, Frank Lepore, Peter Pawlikowski, Marie Buller, Jill Astoreco, Cindy Isleib, Evelyne Bates, Becky Mahoney and family, Brad Brett and Linda Johnson-Brett, Christine, Haiti and Bondeau, Vincent Alaimo, Jeff

## **Wednesday, August 5**

John 1:29-42 “I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel.” (v.31)

All over the Bible, from beginning to end, we see the central role of revelation—an unveiling, often in a surprising or supernatural way, of something previously not known. We do not know, yet God reveals. We are in the dark, and God shines a light. We are lost, then we are found. We swim in lies, and God comes to us as Truth—in Jesus.

For John the Baptist, seeing the truth of the one who was coming appears to have been a striking event, like Paul’s experience on his way to Damascus (Acts 9) or Enoch’s departure from earth (Genesis 5:21-24). John said, “I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on (Jesus) ... I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God” (John 1:32-34).

In 2 Corinthians 4, Paul writes, “The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God... For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ” (vv.4-6).

God's revelation enlightens darkened minds, and we see Jesus. "Knowledge of the Holy One is understanding" (Proverbs 9:10b).

Judges 7:19—8:12; Psalm 119:97-120; Acts 3:12-26

***Include in your prayers:*** Leslie Hahn, Patty Hart, Richard and Margaret Downing, Lance Block, Sue Drinkwater, Bernie Parker, Joe Bishop, Joe and Connie D'Alessandro, Carolyn Tefft, Jim and Jerre Rannie, Bill Browne, Darcy Munoz, Dennis Uthe, Jackie Schidbauer, John Motsko

### **Thursday, August 6**

Psalm 145 *The Lord is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made.* (v.13b)

From now on, I will call Psalm 145 the "all" psalm. Did you notice this word repeat? I counted 15 appearances. Our God, the one who sits enthroned on high yet stoops down to look on His creation (Psalm 113:6) cares about *all of us*, no exceptions. He is the God of All.

While we waste time dividing ourselves into groups, parties, and cliques, God sees each of us, and knows all of us. The psalmist reminds us the Lord is good and compassionate to all (v.9) and faithful to all his promises (v.13). He is loving toward all He has made (vv.13, 17), upholds all who fall, and lifts up all who are bowed down (v.14). He is righteous in all his ways (v.17) and near to all who call on Him in truth (v.18). He watches over all who love Him, yet all the wicked will be destroyed (v.20).

Yes, that last "all" is not uplifting, but it highlights how, throughout the psalm, a relationship is apparent. In response to God's love and faithfulness, we are to praise and extol our Lord (v.10). All our eyes are to look to Him, that we may enjoy His provision (v.15) and the safety of His embrace.

The God of all wants our whole heart—all of it.

Judges 8:22-35; Acts 4:1-12; John 1:43-51

***Include in your prayers:*** Ruth Dans, Kristi Bronkema, Debbie Rannie, Lois Berning, Grace Wasko, Shirley Hazen, Howard Smith, Nancy Scarpa, Peter Smith, Fran Labossiere, Marilyn Pariseleti, Ken Jackson, Steve Parson, Curt Dawson, Hildy, Rochelle, Dimitri, Marty, Brian Smith and family, Steve McCue, Kris Kazmer, Alyssa Pumo, Kelly Bonneau, Laurie Caudle, Meg and family, Susie and David Cooper, Patty Dwyer, Audrey Sprague, Gloria Chung

### **Friday, August 7**

John 2:2-12 His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." (v.5)

"Do whatever he tells you." These words of Mary launched Jesus' public ministry. Through the miracle at the wedding in Cana, Jesus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him (v.11).

As soon as I noted this miracle began with Mary's command to the servants to obey Jesus, I wondered, *what is Jesus telling me to do that perhaps I have not yet done?* This question is, of course, not as simple as it sounds because to obey Jesus, we must stay close enough to hear and learn to discern his voice. We must be in relationship.

The servants obeyed Jesus. As instructed, they filled the jars with water, drew some out, and took it to the banquet master. That was it. The servants didn't realize the water had turned to wine, in part, through *their* obedience.

"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us" (2 Corinthians 4:7). As Christians, we are walking jars of clay filled by the Spirit of

the living God. As we pray boldly to step out into whatever Jesus is calling us to do, he will empower us by the Spirit, that his glory may be revealed. Like Peter and the disciples, we can trust the one who makes the ordinary, extraordinary.

Judges 9:1-16, 19-21; Psalm 88; Acts 4:13-31

***Include in your prayers:*** George Dzama III, Keith Van Cleave, Phil Toren, Wendy Williams, Richard Dunstan, Anne Gibb, Bob Montheard, Dennis and Janet Grote, Laurette, Karen Weitz, Joseph Devan, Liz Bardin, Kathryn Smith, Marlene Islieb, Pat, Trish, Tom, Joe Hagerty, Nancy Cole, Ray Constable, Gina, Bill, Marilou, Gary Newman, Eva, Tisk, Patrick McShane, family of Glendon Cardwell, Jim and Lucille Lanpher, Joan May Engskow

## **Saturday, August 8**

Psalm 90 Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom. (v.12)

Our children are growing up! Our oldest son recently finished college, and his siblings will soon follow. As each one has approached the time for high school graduation, so many verses from this psalm sound like my heartfelt prayers for them. Would you join me in ending our weeklong devotions by praying God's word over our children, our spouses, and all our loved ones?

Heavenly Father, You are our dwelling place. Keep us and those we love close to You, where we may hear Your voice and obey Your commands without delay, and with joy. Remind us every morning of Your unfailing love, and draw us near to You when temptations assault our minds and disturb our hearts. Fill our lips with Your Truth, that we may draw one another toward good deeds because we know and love You.

Reveal Yourself to us as we pray, dear Lord, and give us the zeal of Jesus for Your house and the boldness of Mary, Peter, and Paul in prayer. Teach us to number our days aright, that our hearts may be wise. May Your favor rest upon us, and may we serve one another with charity and selfless hearts, to the glory of Your name. Amen.

Judges 9:22-25, 50-57; Psalm 87; Acts 4:32—5:11; John 2:13-25

***Include in your prayers:*** our country: for wisdom and guidance for our leaders and the leaders of all nations: for our armed forces, especially those now in danger: including: Harold Fitch IV, Sarah Fitch, Gregory Campbell, Nicholas Beswick, Brandon Baila, Dean Joseph Parker, Capt. Griffin Bird, Austin and Mary Willis, Lieutenant Ryan Morie, Houston, General John Shepherd, Russell Clark, Peniel Reid, Lt. Michael Keller, and their families. Pray for our enemies; for peace, justice and reconciliation in all places where there is conflict, especially among the peoples of the Middle East. Please pray for Todd and Patsy McGregor and the people of Madagascar.

*by Amaryllis Sánchez Wohlever, MD*

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