

Good News Daily
Good Shepherd Episcopal Church

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Sunday, October 18

Psalms 148 *Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths.* (v.7 NIV)

A *San Francisco Chronicle* front page story told of a humpback whale trapped in a web of hundreds of pounds of crab traps and lines, struggling to stay afloat.

Divers, working for hours with curved knives, untangled her. When free, incredibly she swam in joyous circles, returning to every diver, nudging and gently pushing. The diver cutting the lines from her mouth said her eye followed him the whole time and he will never be the same.

As one once tangled up in lines and traps, when the Lord cut lines binding me, I was free to be quiet and stand aside. He continues in this lifetime project. "Praise the LORD from the heavens... Praise him, all his angels, praise him, all his heavenly hosts... Let them praise the name of the LORD" (vv.1a, 2, 5a).

Song of Solomon 2:8-17; Psalms 149, 150; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Matthew 16:13-20

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; for our enemies; for peace, justice and reconciliation in all places where there is conflict, especially among the peoples of the Middle East; for Haiti and Bondeau; and for Todd and Patsy McGregor and the people of Madagascar.

Monday, October 19

Psalms 125 *My eyes are ever on the LORD, for only he will release my feet from the snare.* (v.15)

My friend was in distress. Some years ago, she exchanged hurtful words in conversation with a woman. She said she carried these hurtful words around and although this woman moved away, the hurting memory became a fixture. My friend is a godly woman. We prayed our Lord would help her find this woman and be present when she did. Later, she stopped in a remote store for shoe polish and, as she turned down an aisle, the very same woman came towards her, arms outstretched. They spent an hour in mutual forgiveness and will never be the same.

How many times does our Lord have to reveal Himself before we realize how close He really is?

Song of Solomon 4:1—5:1; Revelation 7:1-8; Luke 9:51-62

Include in your prayers: Ricardo Acuña, Vincent Alaimo, Joanna Aras, Karin Armbruster, Jill Astoreco, Jessica Backman, Kay Bailey, Liz Bardin, Todd Baron, Wally and Evelyne Bates, Scott Belair, Carolyn Bell, Nicholas Beswick, Joe Bishop, Lance Block, Jack Boatwright, Kelly Bonneau, Edwin Bowers, Brad Brett and Linda Johnson-Brett, Kristi Bronkema, Bill Browne, Marie Buller, family of Glendon Cardwell, Charles Cathers, Jr., Laurie Caudle, Gloria Chung, Nico Clothier, Candy, daughter of Pat Pinkney

Tuesday, October 20

Psalm 28 *Save your people and bless your inheritance; be their shepherd and carry them forever.* (v.9)

This Scripture brings to mind the death of my father. One morning, while walking for his paper, he fell. A stranger helped him home. “It was an angel,” said Mom. “We know everybody, and this was a stranger.”

The family gathered as he lost his ability to move. One muscle which continued on was the kissing muscle. Mom kissed him frequently, and he would fervently return her kisses. For three days we surrounded him singing hymns. The hospital staff didn’t try to keep us quiet (it’s a small town). Dad showed us the way, kissing and loving as usual until the very end, passing on the Lord’s inheritance.

The late Rev. Canon Jim Glennon wrote, “Death is not the enemy; God’s last and greatest gift to us is that of going to be with Him in the grace of Christ and the comfort of the Holy Spirit.”

Song of Solomon 5:2—6:3; Psalm 26; Revelation 7:9-17; Luke 10:1-16

Include in your prayers: Nancy H. Cole, Martin Conlon, Stan and Shirley Connell, Mark Connell, Ray Constable, Susie and David Cooper, Cindy Croushore, Joe and Connie D’Alessandro, Ruth Dans, Joseph Devan, Natalie Johnson Devries, Dr. Jim Dhrymes, Cathy Dillon, Dale Dixon, Richard and Margaret Downing, Sue Drinkwater, Richard Dunstan, Patty Dwyer, George Dzama III, Joan May Engskow, the Hilliker family, Susan Feldman, Kevin Fitzgerald, Drew Fogg, Jean Fuller

Wednesday, October 21

Luke 10:17-24 *At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children.”* (v.21a)

An email arrived from *Pilots for Christ*, through my favorite pilot, Jim. A man was on a long flight when a huge storm broke. Turbulence lifted the plane on terrific currents and then dropped it as if to crash. Alarm and fear reigned. He noticed a little girl, however, who was completely calm. Fear was not in her world. When they finally reached their destination, he asked why she had not been afraid. She answered, “Because my Daddy’s the pilot and he’s taking me home.”

Don Scott wrote in an issue of *Sharing*: “The needy, the Harvest, are all around us, even on planes. Jesus places them on the path in front or beside us wherever we are. He plans and books the appointments and He guides and directs what we say and do—and He changes lives.”

Song of Solomon 8:5-14; Psalm 38; Revelation 8:1-13

Include in your prayers: Jan Gardiner, Charlie Gasperino, Nancy Giammusso, Anne Gibb, Jake Graybill, Janie Greene, Dennis and Janet Grote, Joe Hagerty, Leslie Hahn, Patty Hart, Shirley Hazen, Pam Heatley, Peter and Mary Hichborn, Mike and Alicia Howard and family, Janet Hullihen, Mary Imle and Frank Harris, Cindy Isleib, Marlene Islieb, Stephen Johnson, Jr. and Jennifer Corson, Kristian Joseph, Cheryl Kart, Kris Kazmer, Fran Labossiere, Jim and Lucille Lanpher, Sarah Lawler, Frank Lepore, Sally Loetell

Thursday, October 22

Luke 10:25-37 *But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”* (v.29)

My young neighbors had never mentioned their faith. Like the priest and the Levite, I was definitely stepping around them when it came to mentioning my Lord Jesus. Unexpectedly, they announced a transfer to Seattle, a special city to me. I knew St. Luke's Church there was the base for the late Fr. Dennis Bennett's ministry, influencing people nationally.

While kneeling at the Eucharist, this couple came to mind, so I knew "passing on the other side" was not acceptable. I recommended St. Luke's and gave them a copy of Fr. Bennett's book, *Nine O'clock In The Morning*. I can't say I inspired them, but I know without a doubt this was a seed for someone, sometime. Many times, I have stumbled on a neighborly note or prayer in an old chest or book which was just the ticket for the day's need.

Esther 1:1-4, 9-12, 16-22; Psalm 37:1-18; Revelation 9:1-12

Include in your prayers: Becky Mahoney and family, Patricia Malloy, Priscilla Marshall, Michael McCown, Steve McCue, Patrick McShane, Deanna Miller, Joey Mitchell, Julia Montgomery, Bob Montheard, John Motsko, Darcy Munoz, Ashley Munoz, Roland and Josh Munoz, Mindy Nash, Gary Newman, Eric O'Neal, Marilyn Pariseleti, Bernie Parker, Jan Parmelee, Steve Parson, Peter Pawlikowski, Phil, Alyssa Pumo, Jim and Jerre Rannie, Debbie Rannie, Karen Rupar

Friday, October 23

Esther 2:1-11 *This girl, who was also known as Esther, was lovely in form and features, and Mordecai had taken her as his own daughter when her father and mother died. (v.7b)*

When turmoil and trouble come for prayer, I sometimes wonder how the Lord could possibly use me. Is that what Esther (Hadassah) thought as she listened to Mordecai's instructions? One simple, young, orphaned girl became King Xerxes' Queen, placing her in line to save the Jewish nation.

At such a time, Fr. Al Durrance advised us to ask the Lord *how* to pray, to sit quietly, offering up the situation to our Lord, waiting on Him. Why am I amazed, when just the right response comes to mind as He demonstrates the Holy Spirit at work?

"And Mordecai said... the little spring that became a river, the light that shone, the sun, Esther is the river..." (Esther 10:6, *The Jerusalem Bible*).

Psalm 31; Revelation 9:13-21; Luke 10:38-42

Include in your prayers: Marie Sabin, Carlos Salmán, Lisa Savey, Nancy Scarpa, Carol Scharf, Jackie Schidbauer, Arnie Selna, Alden Smith and family, Amanda Smith, Brian Smith and family, Howard Smith, Kathryn Smith, Shannon Smith, Bob and Audrey Sprague, Rob Steiner, Carolyn Tefft, Roger Thomas, Phil Toren, Dennis Uthe, Sean Uthe, Marie Valencia, Keith van Cleave, Patricia Vreeland, Grace Wasko, Lori Watts, Karen Weitz, Wendy Williams, Mirabelle Wrist

Saturday, October 24

Psalm 4 *You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy. (v.11)*

Aborigines in Australia have a practice of "pointing the bone." It is greatly feared when one is on the receiving end of this pointing, since death seems to occur frequently thereafter. Sometimes we "point the bone" at ourselves, repeatedly saying, "I have cancer, I have arthritis," etc., until it becomes our identity.

I am learning, instead, to claim the promises of Christ. For example: "I have Jesus." This points the healing cross of Christ directly inward, becoming the powerful essence of our being by

repeating the words consistently, thus sealing ourselves with him, with his glorious presence, in every cell and bone.

“We are not like so many ripe apples in a tree waiting for some Herod to come along and shake us out. No, we are absolutely secure, for we have invested our lives in Jesus Christ” (The Very Rev. Richard Lobs, III).

Esther 2:12-23; Psalm 32; Revelation 10:1-11; Luke 11:1-13

Include in your prayers: Bill, Christine, Candy, Clay, Dave and Marion, Dimitri, Eva, Frank and Phyllis, Gina, Hildy, Jeff, Laurette, Linda, Marilou, Marilyn, Marty, Meg and family, Melissa and Billy, Nancy and Stan, Pat, Rochelle, Tom, Tom, Trish, Victor, the Hilliker family

by Doris Matthews

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