

***Good News Daily***  
***Good Shepherd Episcopal Church***

**Volume XX**

**October 25-31, 2020**

**Number 43**

**Sunday, October 25**

*Psalm 63 I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. (vv.4-5 NIV)*

Don't you love the psalms of David? He lifts his hands in praise to the Lord even while being chased in the wilderness. I close my eyes and turn my face heavenward; however, I must admit I seldom lift my hands in praise. I must feel God's presence and power before physically doing this act. More often, I tend to follow the lead of others in the church I attend. But when I feel the outpouring of the Holy Spirit permeating my soul, I raise my hands in praise to the only one who matters.

I've attended churches so quiet you dare not breathe, and mega-churches where everyone raises hands and sends sidelong glances of condemnation if you're not doing the same. My study Bible says that raising our hands to the Lord is an acknowledgment of His power, wonder, and majesty. Let's release the Spirit within us and praise the Lord, whichever way we're led.

Esther 3:1-15; Psalm 98; 1 Corinthians 10:15-24; Matthew 18:15-20

***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 26**

*Luke 11:14-26 Jesus was driving out a demon that was mute. When the demon left, the man who had been mute spoke, and the crowd was amazed. (v.14)*

The mere mention of demons gives me the shivers. Specifically, Beelzebub, the prince of demons, better known as Satan; however, demons are mentioned throughout the Bible.

Many years ago, my mom was given a Ouija board. Some say it's an innocent board game, fun at gatherings—most disagree when the potential dangers are recognized. Mom became so caught up in this game that it resulted in Dad believing she was possessed by an evil spirit and the subsequent burning of the board.

Our demon can be anything that controls our mind and omits God from our lives. In this fast-paced world of social networking, we can easily become obsessed. Deuteronomy 8:19 says, "If you ever forget the LORD your God and follow other gods and worship and bow down to them, I testify against you today that you will surely be destroyed." Whether it's Twittering, blogging, or texting, let's not forget our Lord. A Bible app is a good way to keep the Lord in your thoughts. Don't let your demon take over.

Esther 4:1-17; Psalms 41, 52; Revelation 11:1-14

***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

## **Tuesday, October 27**

Esther 5:1-14 *“If it pleases the king,” replied Esther, “let the king, together with Haman, come today to a banquet I have prepared for him.”* (v.4)

I once lived in an apartment building inhabited by college students. Like King Xerxes, whose parties lasted for days, they too loved to “wine and dine” and loud parties were the norm.

The Book of Esther could very well be called the Party Book of the Bible. Banquets and celebrations are mentioned numerous times and for various reasons. For instance, while King Xerxes didn’t require a reason to party, Haman wanted to boast of his accomplishments to his wife and friends. On the other hand, Esther had an ulterior motive—to save the Jewish people—her people. Did she throw the first banquet simply to invite the king to a second banquet, or did fear prevent her from speaking her petition? Esther didn’t want to offer a banquet, but she did. God used Esther to save the Jewish race from annihilation and her obedience to God’s will allowed her to overcome her fear. The Book of Esther teaches us that God uses our lives for good when we obey and trust in Him.

Psalm 45; Revelation 11:14-19; Luke 11:27-36

***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, Susan Feldman, Kevin Fitzgerald, Drew Fogg, Jean Fuller

## **Wednesday, October 28**

Psalm 119:49-72 *Do good to your servant according to your word, O LORD. Teach me knowledge and good judgment, for I believe in your commands.* (vv. 65-66)

From the time I was a youngster and throughout my teen years, I remember that each summer Dad would drag an old navy hammock from the shed and tie it with rope between two trees. In those lazy days of summer as a teenager, I loved to lounge in the hammock with a book, usually a historical novel. I was, and still am, an avid reader. However, the Ten Commandments and a number of verses committed to memory from the New Testament were the extent of my Bible reading. I believed there was too much violence in it—at least that’s what I told myself. I didn’t realize how much history and great stories the Bible held. Now, in my latter years, with so many translations to choose from, I hunger for the knowledge contained in the word of God.

David appealed to God, “Teach me your way, O LORD...” (Psalm 27:11); “...teach me your paths” (Psalm 25:4). In the same manner, I pray to be conformed and taught by the Holy Spirit.

Esther 6:1-13; Revelation 12:1-6; Luke 11:37-52

***Include in your prayers:*** Jan Gardiner, Charlie Gasperino, Nancy Giammusso, Anne Gibb, Jake Graybill, Janie Greene, Peggy 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 Hulihan, 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 29**

Revelation 12:7-17 *They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.* (v.11)

What drama! The war in heaven—Michael and angels vs. the dragon, and angels hurling Satan and his angels from heaven to earth. Don’t you love a good drama when the good guys win?

Knott’s Berry Farm had a drama that required audience participation. Cue cards encouraged applause, cheers, and booing. Actors portrayed a villain, damsel in distress, and hero. The tinny sounds of a player-piano resonated. Our youngest son immersed himself in loud, enthusiastic participation which included cupping his hands to his mouth.

Imagine the cheering that took place in heaven during the greatest period of spiritual warfare. The rejoicing must have been deafening. Of course, to visualize the scene you must read the entire chapter. “The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child the moment it was born” (v.4); “her child was snatched up to God” (v.5); “there was war in heaven” (v.7); and the cliffhanger, “the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring—those who obey God’s commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus” (v.17).

Esther 6:14—7:10; Psalm 50; Luke 11:53—12:12

***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, Alyssa Pumo, Jim and Jerre Rannie, Debbie Rannie, Karen Rupar

### **Friday, October 30**

Luke 12:13-31 *Then Jesus said to his disciples: “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes.”* (vv.22-23)

“Do not worry.” I wonder if Jesus’ disciples heeded those words. I know from experiencing life for 70+ years that worry accounts for many gray hairs. “Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?” (v.25). How many times have I asked myself this very question? “O you of little

faith!” (v.28). Yes, that’s what Jesus said: *faith*. Worry shows lack of faith in God’s plan for our lives. The Lord knows our problems and provides what we need in his time.

Maybe Jesus was referring to possessions more than problems. He spoke of God’s judgment on selfishness and said that earthly wealth is temporary and worthless in the end. He’s trying to tell us that when we’re consumed with possessions there is little room left for God in our hearts. “But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well” (v.31).

Things that were difficult when I was younger are now simpler. Trust and faith equals no worry.

Esther 8:1-17; Psalms 40, 54; Revelation 13:1-10

***Include in your prayers:*** Marie Sabin, Carlos Salmán, Lisa Savey, Nancy Scarpa, Carol Scharf, Jackie Schidbauer, Arnie Selna, Tammy Simpson, 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 31**

Psalm 55 *If an enemy were insulting me, I could endure it; if a foe were raising himself against me, I could hide from him. But it is you, a man like myself, my companion, my close friend, with whom I once enjoyed sweet fellowship as we walked with the throng at the house of God.* (vv.12-14)

If you’ve ever had a friend turn against you, you can certainly empathize with King David. Perhaps that friend is from church or your workplace. As a result, others are taking sides. Your anger and pain are real, and you cry out to God. “My thoughts trouble me and I am distraught at the voice of the enemy...” (vv.2b-3a).

David called for God’s judgment—not against his friend, but against the wicked. He knew that judgment and revenge are in God’s hands. Over and over, David expressed discouragement and disappointment, sadness and hurt. Nevertheless, he continued to remind himself of all God had done for him and of God’s faithfulness.

“Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall” (v.22). Let’s remember in our own times of pain and discouragement that the Lord is our one true friend. He will never turn against us.

Ezekiel 20:1-17; Revelation 13:11-18; Luke 12:32-48

***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, Phil, Rochelle, Tom, Tom, Trish, Victor, the Hilliker family

***by Shirley J. Conley***

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