

Flock Talk

December 6, 2020

813-689-4021

910 Bryan Road, Brandon, FL 33511

Second Sunday in Advent

brandonchristianchurch.org

brandonchristianchurch@gmail.com

Today's Scriptures & Message:

Liturgist: Lisa Peterson

Advent Reader: Scott Witherow

Hebrew Scriptures: Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalms: Psalm 85:1-2,8-13

Senior Minister—Rev. Day Broers-Case

Sermon: "Purple, The Color of Royalty"

Sermon Texts: Luke 1:31-35; 23:33-38

Serving in Today's Worship:

Elders: Betty D. & Jo H.

Music Director: Rick Barclay

Audio/Video: Art Konnerth and Tom Smiley

Worship & Wonder: Linda S. and Betty P.

Oh, Holy Night—BCC Member Composed Advent Devotional

December 6, 2020—Advent 2 Read Isaiah 40:27-31

Rev. Day Broers-Case

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed.

This was the passage from Isaiah that Jesus read on that Sabbath day in the synagogue—right at the beginning of his ministry... Can you hear the people? "Doesn't he read well? One of our own young people—helping to lead worship. His mother Mary must be proud...gives you a warm glow, doesn't it?"

Comfortable words because we've heard them before somewhere. "There were shepherds abiding in the fields keeping watch over their sheep..." Words from a long way off. What do they have to do with our lives? Any more than the story of St. Nicholas, a 4th century bishop, who is said to have thrown three bags of gold through a window one night for three poor sisters' dowries. He became patron saint of sailors, children, merchants, pawnbrokers—and he became Santa Claus—a warm glow if there ever was one.

Stories... words... a warm glow... or real hope for real people in real need—the poor, the powerless, the captives, the mourners? Not so cozy in the real world: good news for the poor might be bad news for the well-off. Release for the prisoners raises all kinds of questions for well-meaning society—our efforts alone cannot offer "oil of gladness instead of mourners' tears."

The poor... the brokenhearted... the prisoners... the mourners... we can make it a reverent and irrelevant litany, like rich man... poor man... beggar man... thief... what had that got to do with us, God? Sailors... children... merchants... pawnbrokers... when will it come to us? This year... next year... sometime... never... Yet we remember that when Jesus read these words he added "Today—here and now—these words are coming true." Come true for us—uncomfortable God—here and now! Amen.

In essentials, unity.

In non-essentials, liberty.

In all things, love!

Praise Reports

Jamie is on vacation, praise reports will return next week, this FT was written 11/25

God is Great, All the Time!!

DIGREGORIO, Robyn++++**

Family of James Ivey**

LYNCH, Louise and all who loved her sister++++**

SLAMKA, Jack and Kitty (Murdoch)++++**

BENNICK, Patty and her 3 daughters (Diane)++++

CABRERA, Betty++

CASE, Sharon (Rev. Day)++

COLLINS, Friends and Family of, Rev. James (Rev Day)++

DAWSON, Kathy (Betty) +

ECKDAHL, Kathy ++

FAILES FAMILY++

GIBERSON, Milton (Tom) & Joan++

GOODRUM, Friends and Family of Steve++

HERSHEY, Wanda (Whitfield)+

Prayer Needs...

KONNERTH, Art and Karlita++

MCMILLON, Andrea++

MCMILLON, Family and Friends of Florence Delmonico+

MILLER, Brooke (Blinder) ++

RAYLES, Scooter (Dietz)++

RIENSCH, Nancy ++

SEARS Family ++

SHERMAN, Don (Office)++++

SMITH, Tim++

STUEBER, Susan (Solomon)++++

TAYLOR, Mary Francis—Family of+

UPTON, Dallas (Jean)++

UPTON, Jean (office)++

UPTON, Jean—Niece of

WALKER, Jerry (Solomon)++++

WATSON, Sandy++

WATSON, Tom ++

WHITFIELD, Bob ++

** New Name

"+" symbols indicate number of weeks remaining on list

Please also pray for all those affected by Covid-19, our first responders, medical care professionals, and those out on the front lines to protect us.

Please pray for peace, understanding, and unity in America and around the world.

One Shepherd's Thoughts...



A Meditation for Cultivating Gratitude

Being grateful is something you can practice year-round, but the holidays are often a time to be especially reflective on your life. This meditation will help you think about what you are grateful for and how to express that appreciation. Try these simple steps to develop a gratitude mindset:

Find a comfortable, quiet location to begin your practice. For this one, find a sunny spot on your patio, take a seat next to warm fireplace, or curl up in a warm blanket on a cool winter day. Sit up straight, adjusting your posture as necessary to ease any pain

points.

Start by taking a series of deep breaths. In through the nose, out through the mouth. Lightly close your eyes and continue a rhythmic breathing pattern. If you are sitting outside on a sunny day or next to the space heater, notice how the warmth embraces you and melts the cool winter chill. Breathe and enjoy the sensation of warmth flowing through your body.

Start to reflect on the gifts that life has given you today. What can you be grateful for today, in this very moment? You can choose something specific that happened today or even the simple fact that you are alive and breathing and practicing the gift of meditation.

Bring to mind all the potential comforts that you have in your life, for example:

Access to water and food
Clothes
Electricity
Home
Friends, family, and pets
Technology

One by one, think of all the special people or animals that are a part of your life, both directly and indirectly:

Family
Friends
Pets
Coworkers
Mentor

The farmer who grew your food

The officer who keeps your neighborhood safe

The engineer who constructed the school your kids go to

Now, think about something in your life that you are grateful for that was new in the last year.

Now, think of one talent or skill that you possess that you're grateful for.

Now, think of one thing that you are really looking forward to in the future.

Now, think about something that makes you smile or laugh, and observe the emotions that flow through your body.

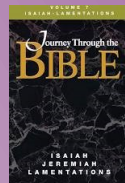
Release the gratitude images, take a few deep breaths, and finish by taking inventory of how you are feeling. Without judgment, simply observe.

When you are finished, you can gently open your eyes and bring the feelings of gratitude with you into the rest of your day.

When you practice this meditation, you are actively working to cultivate feelings of joy, kindness, and gratitude this holiday season, benefitting your well-being as well as those around you. What better way to get into the holiday spirit, and in turn, make it contagious!

God IS with us!

Rev Day



Bible Study with Reverend Day will resume on December second at 2:00 on Zoom

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83634005420?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83634005420?pwd=WmhkeWtjNXNWTjRlTjhsUWxHWc8zZz09)

[pwd=WmhkeWtjNXNWTjRlTjhsUWxHWc8zZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83634005420?pwd=WmhkeWtjNXNWTjRlTjhsUWxHWc8zZz09)

Meeting ID: 836 3400 5420

Passcode: 123414



SAFF LOVE OFFERING

We appreciate our BCC staff for all they do for us throughout the year! This time of year we like to show them how much they are appreciated. If you would like to give to Staff Love offering you can give to Staff Love offering on Give Plus, you can also put your Staff Love offering in the collection plate, or send a check marked Staff Love offering to BCC.

Thank you, Diane Garthwaite

