

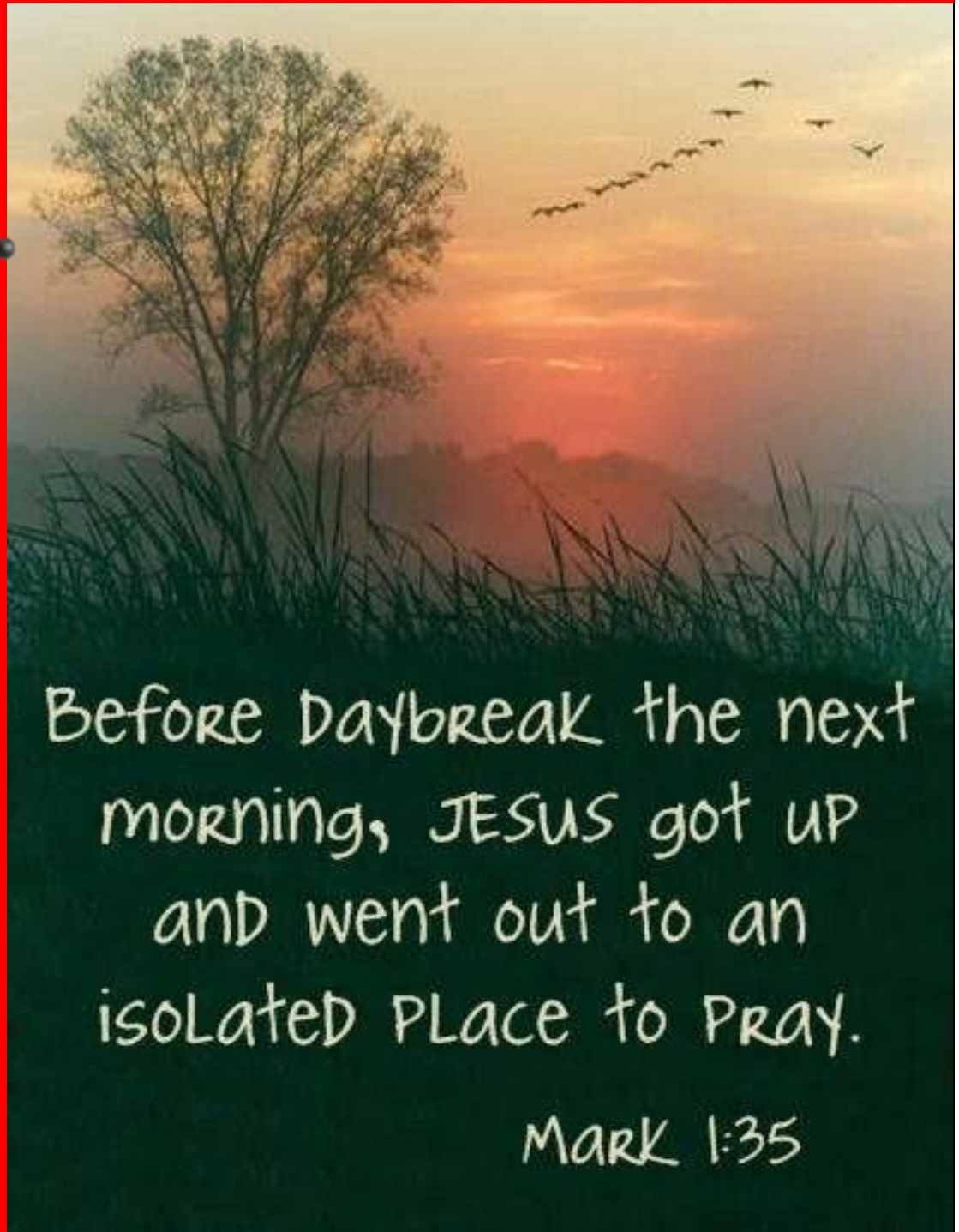
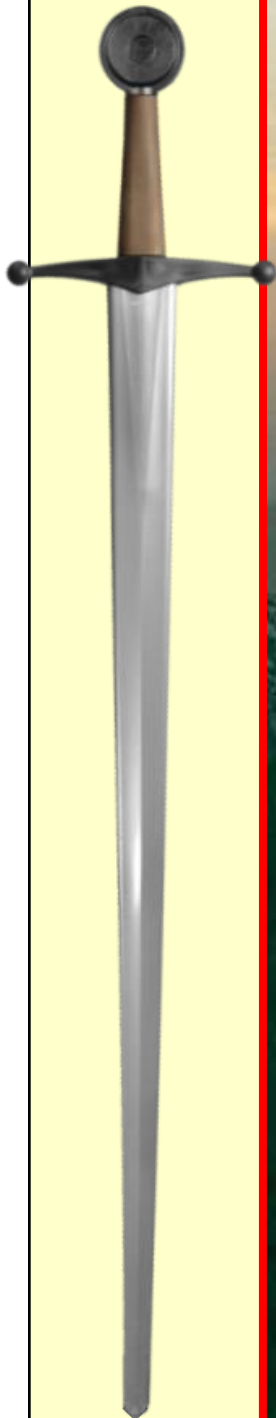
*Transforming
Lives Through
Jesus Christ*

SWORD POINTS

Epiphany 5B, 2024

www.SaintPaulsBrookfield.com

(203) 775-9587



Before Daybreak the next morning, JESUS got up and went out to an isolated PLACE to PRAY.

MARK 1:35

† Un-Heavy Lifting

The book of the prophet Isaiah introduces the readings for Sunday ~ more specifically, in scholarly/theological terms ~ this piece is from *Deutero-Isaiah* [doo-ter-oh] or Second Isaiah. The book of this prophet is written in three distinct parts and by three distinct authors over more than 200 years. This piece is sometimes called the "Book of Consolation" as it speaks to an audience of those in a long exile out of Jerusalem, which for some was not too bad and for others just terrible, not unlike our current times. This piece is filled with non-judgmental, hope-filled language of restoration, rebuilding, and renewal. Consider the parental tone of the opening: *Have you not known? Have you not heard?* [as if "Hello, I've said this before, remember?!"] God has always promised to remain with us and, as during the Exodus, God never grows faint or weary. The prophet calls us to *lift* our eyes to look at Creation and see. In a poetic turn not only are we protected by the wings of God, but God gives those in exile ~ and us ~ wings of our own to *lift us* out of our weakness and weariness, a profound gift that offers us renewal of strength.

The Psalmist reminds us of the rebuilding of Jerusalem, the gathering of the exiles to return home, and how God recognizes and heals the wounds and broken hearts as God *lifts up* the lowly. We are all to *sing praises, sing with thanksgiving*, make music upon the harp for all that God has bestowed upon us.

Paul's letter, in his not always easy way, speaks of his meeting people where they are to *offer the way of the Gospel*. What Paul is trying to tell the Corinthians ~ and us ~ is that we are to welcome, listen, and not judge. That is a true balancing act and always difficult as we work on loving our neighbors as ourselves and attempt to be open and inviting about our faith. At first glance it may seem that Paul is being deceptive when he says I have *become all things to all people*, as if playing a false role to entice others. His intent is not only to show them the way to discover a saving relationship with God, he also wants to understand their lives and reveal his own weaknesses to them as imperfect as we all are in service to God. He offers the message of the Gospel to them free, without charge, no contributions or any financial support.

And Jesus, *lifted up* Simon's mother-in-law and she was freed from the fever. Her response was to honor Jesus in the way she knew how, a ministry of hospitality. And then he and the disciples moved on to the neighboring towns to *proclaim the message* and show us the way to follow. Isn't that what we each must do?

Let us honor the gifts of God, the healings, words, and works of Jesus, and the wisdom of the Holy Spirit, by accepting our wings, soaring to new heights of commitment, and *proclaiming the message*. There are many directions in this life, and this is our Way.



Psalm 147 is a veritable litany of God's gifts to the world, and we - yes, you and I - are considered to be among those wonderful works. God yearns for a loving and grateful response from those he has created. Is such a response evident to others by the way your life is lived?

✠ *This Week at St. Paul's*

- Sat, Feb 3 - 7:30 am - [John 21:12](#) Group, Bridgewater Village Store, Bridgewater
 8:00 am - Men's Prayer Breakfast, Guild Room
 - 9:00 am - PraiseMoves ([Zoom](#))
- Sun, Feb 4 **5th Sunday after the Epiphany**
 - 8:00 am - **Traditional Holy Communion** ([YouTube Live](#))
 9:30 am - Adult Class, Guild Room
 10:30 am - Sunday School, Classrooms
 10:30 am - **Contemporary Holy Communion** ([YouTube Live](#))
 7:00 pm - Recovery & Self-Reflection, Guild Room ([Zoom](#))
- Mon, Feb 5 - 7:00 pm - Men's Bible Study, Crocker Hall ([YouTube Live](#))
- Tues, Feb 6 - 9:30 am - Ladies Tuesday AM Bible Study, Guild Room
 7:00 pm - Boy Scout Troop #5
- Wed, Feb 7 - 8:00 am - PraiseMoves ([Zoom](#))
 10:00 am - **Holy Communion & Healing** ([YouTube Live](#))
 11 to Noon - Drive-Thru Food Collection #100
 7:00 pm - Ladies Evening Zoom Bible Study ([Zoom](#))
- Thu, Feb 8 - 9:30 am - Men's Study / Discussion Group, Guild Room
 7:30 pm - Property Committee, Guild Room
 7:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- Sat, Feb 10 - 7:30 am - [John 21:12](#) Group, Theo's Downtown Diner, New Milford
 8:00 am - Men's Prayer Breakfast, Guild Room
 - 9:00 am - PraiseMoves ([Zoom](#))
- Sun, Feb 11 **Last Sunday after the Epiphany**
 - 8:00 am - **Traditional Holy Communion** ([YouTube Live](#))
 9:30 am - East African Mission Partnership Presentation, Guild Room
 10:30 am - Sunday School, Classrooms
 10:30 am - **Contemporary Holy Communion** ([YouTube Live](#))
 6:00 pm - Super Bowl Party, Guild Room
- Mon, Feb 12 - 7:00 pm - Men's Bible Study, Crocker Hall ([YouTube Live](#))
- Tues, Feb 13 - 9:30 am - Ladies Tuesday AM Bible Study, Guild Room
 5:30 pm - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Crocker Hall
 7:00 pm - "Walking in Worship," Sanctuary
- Wed, Feb 14 **Ash Wednesday**
 - 10:00 am - **Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes** ([YouTube Live](#))
 7:30 pm - **Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes** ([YouTube Live](#))
- Thu, Feb 15 - 8:00 am - PraiseBarre ([Zoom](#))
 - 9:30 am - Men's Study / Discussion Group, Guild Room
 7:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- Sat, Feb 17 - 7:30 am - [John 21:12](#) Group, Theo's Downtown Diner, New Milford
 8:00 am - Men's Prayer Breakfast, Guild Room
 9:00 am - PraiseMoves ([Zoom](#))
 10:00 am - St. Paul's Quilters, Crocker Hall
- Sun, Feb 18 **1st Sunday in Lent**
 - 8:00 am - **Traditional Holy Communion** ([YouTube Live](#))
 9:30 am - Adult Class, Guild Room
 10:30 am - Sunday School, Classrooms
 10:30 am - **Contemporary Holy Communion** ([YouTube Live](#))
 7:00 pm - Recovery & Self-Reflection, Guild Room ([Zoom](#))



† Power and Mercy

[Isaiah 40:21-31](#) - [Psalm 147:1-12, 21c](#) - [1 Corinthians 9:16-23](#) - [Mark 1:29-39](#)

Speed is a characteristic of St. Mark's gospel, with scenes patched together with the adverb *immediately*. This staccato pace is occasionally interrupted by the narrative present - stopping time and letting us observe a present moment. "And *immediately* coming out of the synagogue they went into the house of Simon and Andrew" (Mark 1:29, my translation). "Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever" (Mark 1:30, NRSV).

Her condition is deliberately reported to Jesus in the present tense: "They speak to him concerning her" (Mark 1:30, my translation). Later in the story, again in the present tense, "They say to him, everyone is looking for you" (Mark 1:37, my translation). Responding in the present, "he says to them, 'Let us go elsewhere into the neighboring villages so that I may preach there also, for this is [why] I came'" (Mark 1:39). The address of the disciples to Jesus is a real-time "intercession" for a hurting world, a prayer for the sick and those who are lost and searching. Recorded in the present tense, it invites our prayers in our time and place for all who are in pain or suffering in any way, for all who are lost and searching. We are bold to turn to Jesus and speak.

Jesus responds. He healed Simon's mother-in-law in a manner anticipating the resurrection. "And having approached, he raised her by the hand, and the fever left her" (Mark 1:31, my translation). The whole city came to Jesus, and "he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons" (Mark 1:34, NRSV). Jesus takes his message and his power to heal from village to village.

Both in his words and in his healing, we see the extraordinary and incomprehensible power of God, who reigns over the entire universe. Jesus is begotten of this source: "It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; ... Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. ... Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth" (Isa. 40:22, 26, 28). So says the prophet Isaiah. Likewise, the Psalmist say, "He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names. Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; his understanding is beyond measure" (Ps. 147:4-5). Power, of course, can be terrifying, so it is important to recall that God shows his power chiefly in showing mercy.

God in Christ is the great healer of bodies and souls.

Isaiah tells us that "He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless" (Isa. 40:29). The psalmist tells us that God rebuilds and gathers, heals the brokenhearted, binds up wounds, and lifts up the lowly. Moreover, God's mercy and healing extend to all beings. "He covers the heavens with clouds, prepares rain for the earth, makes grass on the hills. He gives to the animals their food, and to the young ravens when they cry" (Ps. 147:8-9).

This is the day that the Lord hath made. This is the moment to speak to Jesus, to tell him of all the pain in the world, to reach for and trust in his mercy. The Most High God stoops to behold the heavens and the earth in tender compassion and lovingkindness.

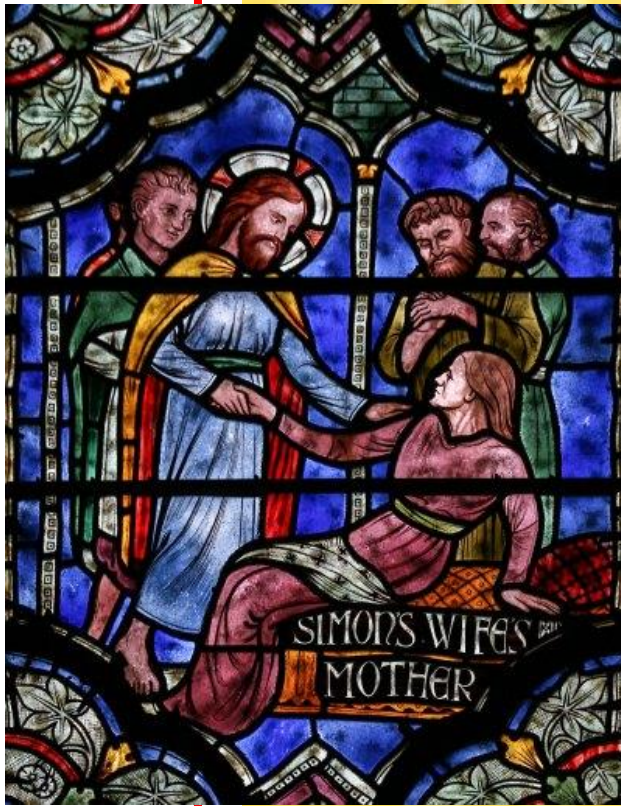
Look It Up

Psalm 147

Think About It

Call upon God's mercy and healing.

- from *The Living Church*, 2024



*Christ raised her up,
and she served him |
Lawrence Lew, OP |
Flickr*

† Prayer as We Search for a New Rector

Almighty God, you know the needs of your church in every place: look graciously upon us, the people of St. Paul's Parish, and grant us the guidance of your Holy Spirit as we seek a new Rector for this parish.

Jesus, you have blessed and sustained us through the past 238 years. We ask that you continue to lead us, stretch us, and direct us, in our search. Raise for us a priest and pastor who will boldly proclaim your Gospel, faithfully administer your sacraments, and serve your people with love and compassion, that we may continue to grow in the likeness of Christ and be a beacon of love and hope to our community and the world.

Give us discernment, wisdom, and confidence in your timing. Guide the members of our Search Committee, as they labor to be faithful in seeking your will.

We pray for the life of our parish, that we may continue to be strengthened in our mission to transform lives, being Jesus' heart, hands and feet to our neighbors no matter where they are on their journey of faith.

Bless us with mutual trust and respect, courage, and foresight as you shepherd our community through its journey.

Grace us with continuous direction and inspire us toward genuine self-reflection.

All this we ask as we walk in your ways to the glory of your name. **Amen.**



† "24 Hours That Changed the World"



Special Lenten Series: Please join us on Wednesday evenings starting February 21 for an impactful five-week Lenten video-based discussion series called "24 Hours That Changed the World." We will begin at 6:30 pm with a light supper followed by the video and discussion. In this Lenten journey, Pastor Adam Hamilton guides us through the last twenty-four hours of Jesus' life. Each part is designed to help us experience and understand the significance of Jesus' suffering and death in a way you have never done before.

Lent

† What in the World is God Doing?

Part 4 - His Command - Our Commission

I'll never forget the sense of uncertainty and uneasiness I felt as I looked out from our ship to the country of Japan as it came into view. It was April 1967, and my wife Lindie and I along with our two small sons at that point, had just crossed the Pacific Ocean on the P&O ship, the Oriana. We had felt called to be a part of God's work in a place where there were few believers or no churches. Japan certainly qualified for that description having a population of some 117 million people but only 1% identified themselves as followers of Jesus.

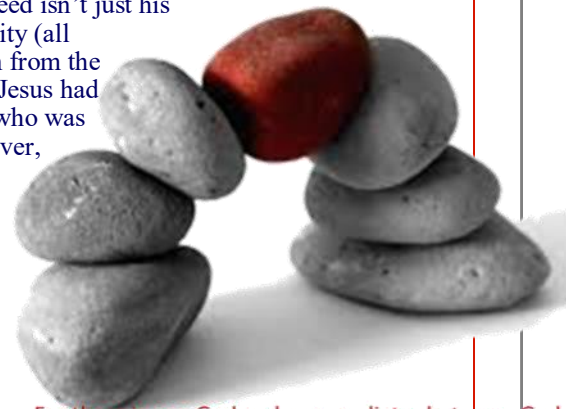
Standing on the deck and looking at the approaching harbor and coastline of Japan, the reality hit me that this task, although necessary, was going to be challenging. Yes, uprooting your life and family and taking them to the other side of the world to serve as a cross-cultural missionary wasn't going to be easy, but necessary if we were to obey Christ's Great Commission - to go and make disciples. My mind jumped back to the major efforts since the 1,500's to evangelize Japan and the struggles and cost to so many other followers of Christ who had come. But why were we here and what was the message that we were commanded to share? We've already looked at two other aspects of the Great Commission, from Matthew and Mark. Now let us look at Jesus' third expression of the Great Commission as found in the Gospel of Luke.

3. Forgiveness of sin in Christ's name must be offered to all nations (Luke 24:44-49). Notice afresh the words that summarize the heart of the gospel and our message, "He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem." Jesus makes clear just what the essential message of the gospel would be. He states that man's greatest need isn't just his physical welfare, or education or economic security (all understandably important), but rather redemption from the penalty of sin and death. Earlier in his ministry, Jesus had declared in a powerful parable about a rich man who was building bigger barns to store all his stuff. However, if he gains the whole world but loses his soul, what will it profit him? Scripture makes crystal clear that apart from Christ, men and women are eternally lost and without hope (Acts 4:12). There is only one Savior and way to God (1 Tim. 2:5-6).

This is difficult for many to accept in our pluralistic world. The thought that there is only one way to God seems arrogant and imperialistic to many. Even among many Christians there is a sense that we shouldn't be overly dogmatic in our assertions that Christ is the only way to God. Tolerance and inclusiveness are the key words in our culture, and thus seem to collide with "one way" thinking. For most Christians bridging the gap between culture's pervasive "coexist" mentality and Jesus' words in John 14:6 - that he is the only way to the Father - is daunting, if not frightening.

The temptation for many is to remain silent. But if someone claims that all paths to God are legitimate and no one can declare that their way alone is valid, are not they being dogmatic and taking the same posture for which, they criticize evangelicals? Further, by claiming there are many paths to salvation, they automatically contradict how most religious adherents understand their faith. This means, by this person's own standards, that while seeking a flawed form of pluralism, they are in some sense intolerant of the world's

(Continued on page 7)



For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all people. 1 Timothy 2 5-6

(Continued from page 6)

What in the World is God Doing?

sincerest religious believers. Ironically, people who hold to the “all religions are basically the same” perspective under the guise of inclusivity and tolerance engage in a form of intolerance that runs over other views that they don’t find palatable.

From Luke’s Gospel, we see that Jesus clarified the message his followers were to proclaim to the nations. This message is to be proclaimed to all nations (no exceptions). In Luke’s statement of our commission, Jesus gives the essence of the gospel in four vital truths. These statements are profound and vital for us to understand and then act on. What are they? First, Jesus is the promised Messiah. Second, He suffered death and was raised to life. Third, a person must respond by repentance and finally, forgiveness of sin is the benefit which explains three vital and important truths.

Sin is man’s predicament. The redemptive work of Jesus is the only cure. Repentance is necessary to be forgiven.

Forgiveness of sins is the very heart of the Christian message.

No other religion can offer this promise of full pardon. It extends to all nations.

So, what about non-Christian religions? Are there other ways in which people can be saved? As you read through the following Scripture verses what insights do they offer with respect to the inclusiveness or exclusiveness of Christianity?

Acts 4:12 - Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

1 Timothy 2:5-6 - For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people.

John 14:6 - Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Romans 10:9-15 - If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

The core reason for the non-acceptance of the gospel is a society’s concept of mankind’s root problem or predicament. The belief of man’s root problem varies from ethnic group to ethnic group. Here is the teaching of the major religions.

Islam - Selfishness, manifested by wrongdoing on man’s part.

Buddhism - Suffering, with the primary cause of suffering being human desire.

Animism - Spirits that permeate the world around them.

Judaism - Broken relationships.

Hinduism - Ignorance, the need for more enlightenment.

In what way then would Christianity diagnose man’s fundamental predicament or problem? Scripture makes it very clear that the human race is broken and fallen because of disobedience to God’s plan and purpose. As a result, the world is in desperate need of saving. Christ’s message makes clear that in him there is forgiveness and restoration to a right relationship with God. This is a message that all must hear.



† “Walking in Worship”

Mark your calendars for a special evening of worship on February 13th, Shrove Tuesday, at 7:00!

Bill Schrull will lead us in “Walking in Worship,” a time of worship with music, Scripture, teaching, and prayer. This is a time in our busy lives to fully focus on the Lord. Come and draw near to God, expressing your thanks and praise to Him by exalting His holy Name.





† Helping Our Neighbors

Here is an update about St. Paul's ongoing food-related ministries serving our community:

Drive Thru Food Collection - occurs every other Wednesday from 11 am - noon. We have now held 99 food drives since April 22, 2020! Last time our trucks delivered to the Jericho Food Pantry, Danbury and the FAITH Pantry, Newtown.

Our next food collection, our 100th, will be next Wednesday, February 7th and will support the Christian Victory Center in Danbury, and the Jericho Food Pantry in Danbury.

Thank you all for your ongoing generosity and to the many volunteers who have helped to load the trucks and deliver food to the pantries.

Next Drive-Thru Food Collection

Wednesday
February 7th

*Help us,
Help others*

11 am to Noon



If you would like to request Altar flowers for a particular Sunday in Memory of a friend or loved one, please fill out an envelope located in the back of the church or send an email request to dszen@yahoo.com or contact David Szen.



**Altar
Flowers**

† **Celebrating a Call to Action**

“**T**his is urgent”... and so began our bi-weekly Drive-Thru Food Collection to support the Jericho Partnership Food Pantry on Wednesday, April 22, 2020 which started as a urgent “Call to Action” to help meet the needs of more vulnerable families impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Many thanks to all who have and continue to “drive thru” with food donations every other Wednesday. The volunteers appreciate everyone who drops off food to the trucks in the church parking lot every two weeks and to all who bring their food donations to church and leave in the baskets. We are so grateful.

Pictured left: David Lindsay & Sandra Visser 4/22/20 – First Drive Thru



Also to be recognized are the many volunteers over time who have braved the weather and delivered to either the Jericho Food Pantry in Danbury and to one of the six pantries supported by St.

Paul’s: Brookfield Social Services; St. James, Danbury; Christian Victory Center, Danbury; FAITH Food Pantry, Newtown; Bethel Community Food Pantry; and New Milford’s Loaves and Fishes. They include: Ann Allen; Julie & Paul Astbury; Bill Bennett; Barbara DeAnzeris; Angela Haselwood; Laine Huber; David Lindsay; Mary Perry; Diane Peterson; Marilyn & Joe Roginski; Joyce Sarver; Fr. Shepley; Sandra Visser-Sampson & family.



Pictured left: Bill Bennett, Barb DeAnzeris, Laine Huber & Joyce Sarver.

Right: Angela Haselwood & Diane Diane Peterson.



Next week we will celebrate our **100th Food Drive** on Wednesday, February 7th. This has occurred every two weeks since 2020, rain



or shine. Below is a graphic pulled from Jericho’s 2023 year end communication. The numbers served has increased dramatically since we began four years ago.

Blessings to everyone who has supported this ministry. Food insecurity continues to be a serious problem for many. May we continue to give generously to support our neighbors who are experiencing challenges. To our volunteers and donors, thank you for your commitment to this crucial ministry.

400+

FAMILIES FED MONTHLY. More than 400 families are members of our Food Pantry, coming biweekly (some, weekly) to receive meat, dairy, fresh produce, bakery and non-perishable staples. With each family numbering 3-6, we provided food for about 2,000 individuals every month.



† On the Church Calendar

Friday, February 2nd

The Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple

Today's feast is sometimes known as the Purification of Saint Mary the Virgin, and also as Candlemas. The events commemorated today are recorded in [Luke 2:22-39](#).



Counting forward from December 25 as Day One, we find that Day Forty is February 2. A Jewish woman is in semi-seclusion for 40 days after giving birth to a son, and accordingly it is on February 2 that we celebrate the coming of Mary and Joseph with the infant Jesus to the Temple at Jerusalem to offer sacrifice on behalf of Mary to mark the end of her seclusion (see [Leviticus 12:1-8](#)), and to ransom or redeem (buy back) Jesus as a first-born male (see [Exodus 13:11-13; 22:29; Numbers 18:15-16; Deuteronomy 15:19](#)). As they did so, they were greeted by the aged Simeon. When Mary placed her small son into the arms of Simeon, it was the meeting of the Old and New Dispensations. The old sacrifices, the burnt offerings and oblations, were done away; a new and perfect offering had come into the temple. God had provided himself a lamb for the burnt-offering ([Genesis 22:8](#)), his only Son. The offering was to be made once for all on the cross. At every Eucharist those who are in Christ recall that sinless offering and unite "themselves, their souls and bodies" with the self-oblation of their Lord and Savior.

Because an old reading for this festival contains the line ([Zephaniah 1:12](#)), "I will search Jerusalem with candles," the day is also known as "Candlemas," and sometimes observed with a candle-lit procession. On the other hand, Groundhog Day ("If the groundhog (or woodchuck, a kind of marmot, which burrows and hibernates) sees his shadow on February 2nd, there will be six more weeks of winter.") is strictly a secular holiday, brought to the United States and Canada by German immigrants.

† Socks & Toiletries for the Homeless



The harsh reality of winter is upon us. Remember homeless people are on their feet all day, and the only pair of socks they own are very likely to be threadbare. We are collecting socks (white preferred) and toiletries for the men's homeless shelter throughout the winter months. Place donations in the bins in the back of the church or Crocker Hall.

† *Art in the Christian Tradition*

A Hospital Ward during the Chief Physician's Round,

By Louis Jimenez Aranda (1845-1928),
Oil on canvas, painted in 1889,
© Prado Museum, Madrid

Our late 19th-century painting by Spanish artist Louis Aranda shows the tender care with which a doctor is attending to the patient. Onlookers are present. In our Gospel reading Sunday we hear how each time Jesus

is healing, onlookers are present as well, witnessing the miracles he is performing up close. Our painting won the gold medal for painting at the 1889 Universal Exhibition in Paris. the main attraction of that exhibition of course was the Eiffel Tower, a 300-meter high marvel of iron by Gustave Eiffel. But this painting here won first prize for painting. It is a social realist painting, depicting a visit to the hospital by a group of students accompanied by the chief physician, who



teaches them how to examine the body of the patients. In this case, the patient is a semi-conscious young woman. The poor girl is unable to sit up on her own, so the doctor has asked one of the assistants, wearing a black hood, to help support her while he performs direct auscultation, the most important phase of the physical examination. This consists of putting the ear against the patient's back to listen to the rhythm of the heartbeat, an examination that is currently performed with a stethoscope. The other assistant, at the foot of the bed, holds sheets of paper with the medical history, ready to take notes.

Are we just an onlooker and a spectator to the Gospel and to the world around us, or do we get drawn in like the medical students in our painting and participate in the chief physicians mission to help heal the world?

After reading about the headlining ministry of Jesus in the first half of the reading, we read in the second half, how is then withdrawing to pray. Activity is often more appreciated than prayer; that is true of our own time as much as it was of Jesus' time. Yet, Jesus shows us that the kind of activity which is an expression of God's work must always be rooted in prayer. In prayer we open ourselves to God, and that helps to ensure that our own activity is in harmony with God's desire for ourselves and for others.



Take note

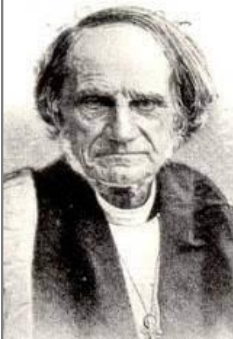
by Kirsten Peterson, Organist & Choirmaster

Greetings!

This Sunday we will end our worship with one of my favorite hymns, "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise." I like it both because of the words as well as the tune (SALZBURG), a melody composed by the German court composer Jakob Hintze (1622-1702) and harmonized by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750). This Epiphany hymn certainly lays out a timeline of Christ's life: his birth, baptism, performing of miracles, and fighting evil. The 19th century Anglican bishop Christopher Wordsworth (1807-1885) describes this beautifully in the first three verses. FYI: the poet William Wordsworth was his uncle!



Jakob Hintze



Christopher Wordsworth

Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise, manifested by the star to the sages from afar; branch of royal David's stem in thy birth at Bethlehem; anthems be to thee addressed, God in man made manifest.

Manifest at Jordan's stream, Prophet, Priest, and King supreme; and at Cana, wedding-guest, in thy Godhead manifest; manifest in power divine, changing water into wine; anthems be to thee addressed, God in man made manifest.

Manifest in making whole palsied limbs and fainting soul; manifest in valiant fight, quelling all the devil's might; manifest in gracious will, ever bringing good from ill; anthems be to thee addressed, God in man made manifest.

The fourth verse included in our hymnal was added by F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984), an American Episcopal priest and hymn writer. The verse reads as follows and is a nod to the Transfiguration, which we will celebrate next week for the Last Sunday after the Epiphany.

Manifest on mountain height, shining in resplendent light, where disciples filled with awe thy transfigured glory saw. When from there thou leddest them steadfast to Jerusalem, cross and Easter Day attest God in man made manifest.

That word "manifest"...we sing it twelve times! So, what does it mean exactly? The word means "to make evident or obvious, easily perceived by the senses." It is thought to come from the Latin *manifestus*: the rough translation is "caught in the hand" or something easily grasped. The manifestation of Christ, his physical appearing to us, is a central part of Christianity. In other words, the only way God thought we'd get the

message was by giving us Jesus as a clear and visible sign.

Apparently, there are two other verses that Wordsworth wrote that did not make it into our hymnal, but I like them so I've included them here:

(Continued on page 13)

[Informal] to trim, clip, etc. *manicure*
mani-cur-ist (-ist) *n.* a person whose work is giving a
mani-fest (man'ə fest') *adj.* [ME < OFr *manifeste* < L *manifestus*,
 earlier *manifestus*, lit., struck by the hand, palpable, evident <
manus, a hand (see *MANUAL*) + base akin to (*in*)*festus*: see *INFEST*;
 apparent to the senses, esp. that of sight, or to the mind; evident;
 obvious; clear; plain —*vt.* [ME *manifesten* < OFr *manifeste* < L
manifestare] 1 to make clear or evident; show plainly; reveal;
 evince 2 to prove; be evidence of 3 to enter in a ship's manifest —
vi. to appear to the senses; show itself —*n.* 1 a) an itemized list of
 a ship's cargo, to be shown to customs officials b) a list of the
 passengers on an airplane 2 [Rare] a manifestation —
adv. manifestly *adv.*

(Continued from page 12)

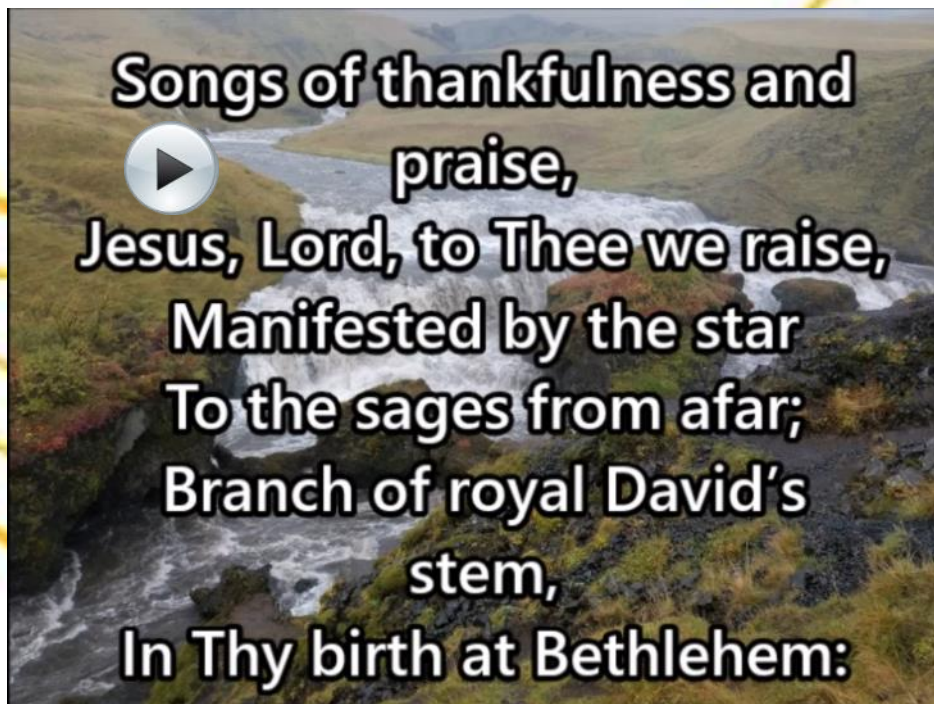
Choir Notes

Sun and moon shall darkened be, stars shall fall, the heav'ns shall flee. Christ will then like lightning shine; all will see his glorious sign. All will then the trumpet hear, all will see the judge appear. You by all will be confessed, God in man made manifest.

Grant us grace to see you, Lord, mirrored in your holy Word. May our lives and all we do imitate and honor you that we all like you may be at your great epiphany and may praise you, ever blest, God in man made manifest.

They're nice, right?

Peace and blessings,
Kirsten



† African Mission Partnerships Presentation

On Sunday, February 11th, between services in the Guild Room, Bill & Cathy Schroll, along with visiting Bishop David Kodia from Kenya, will host a photo and video presentation on our East African partnerships in Kenya and Tanzania. Bill and Cathy will discuss our partnership with the Diocese of Western Tanganyika in Tanzania. Bishop David will discuss and answer questions about our partnership with his Diocese and Bishop Okullu College in Kenya. These partnerships are an important part of our mission efforts. It will be a privilege to share with you how our support as the parish has made a difference by “equipping the saints” in East Africa for the work of proclaiming the Gospel in their respective countries.

Jesus' life is filled by many, who make demands on his time. In spite of these heavy demands, he still makes time to be alone in prayer. As a faithful follower, does your life follow his pattern of prayer and action?



† Ladies Evening Bible Zoom Study

Join the Ladies Wednesday Evening Zoom Bible study group as we study the eight "I AM statements" Jesus made in the gospel of John for eight weeks beginning January 3rd.

I AM: An 8-Session Bible Study of John is a combination of scripture passages, discussion questions, and Bible-centered ideas for real life application for relying on God's guidance and goodness.

In *I AM*, you'll discover:

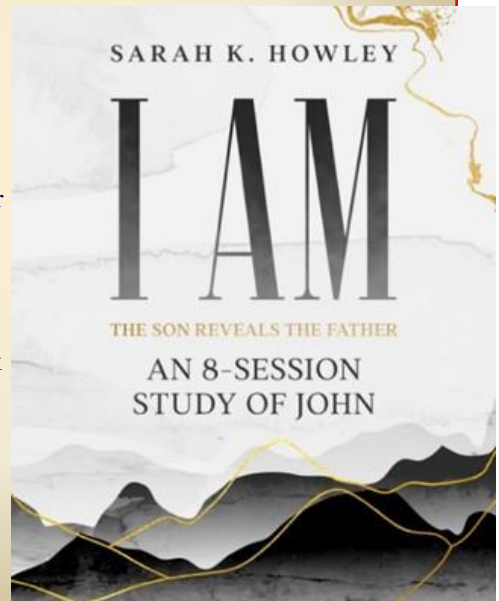
- Parallels revealing the continuity between the God of the Old and New Testaments so you can enjoy a close relationship with Him.

- In-depth explorations of terms like Bread of Life and Light of the World that help you discover their rich significance.

- And a fun way to enjoy fellowship with your sisters in Christ.

You can order the book ahead at Amazon or just come and jump into the discussions.

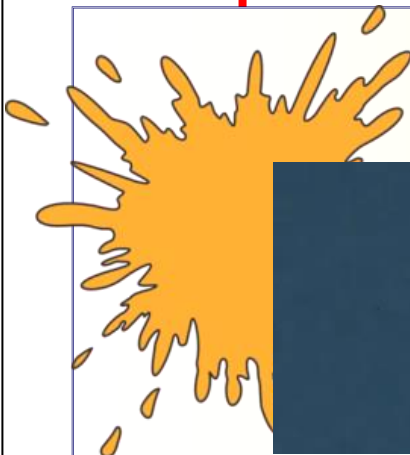
Any questions or to get on the zoom link email, contact Carol Wheeler at 203-525-0011 or cmeadwheeler@hotmail.com.

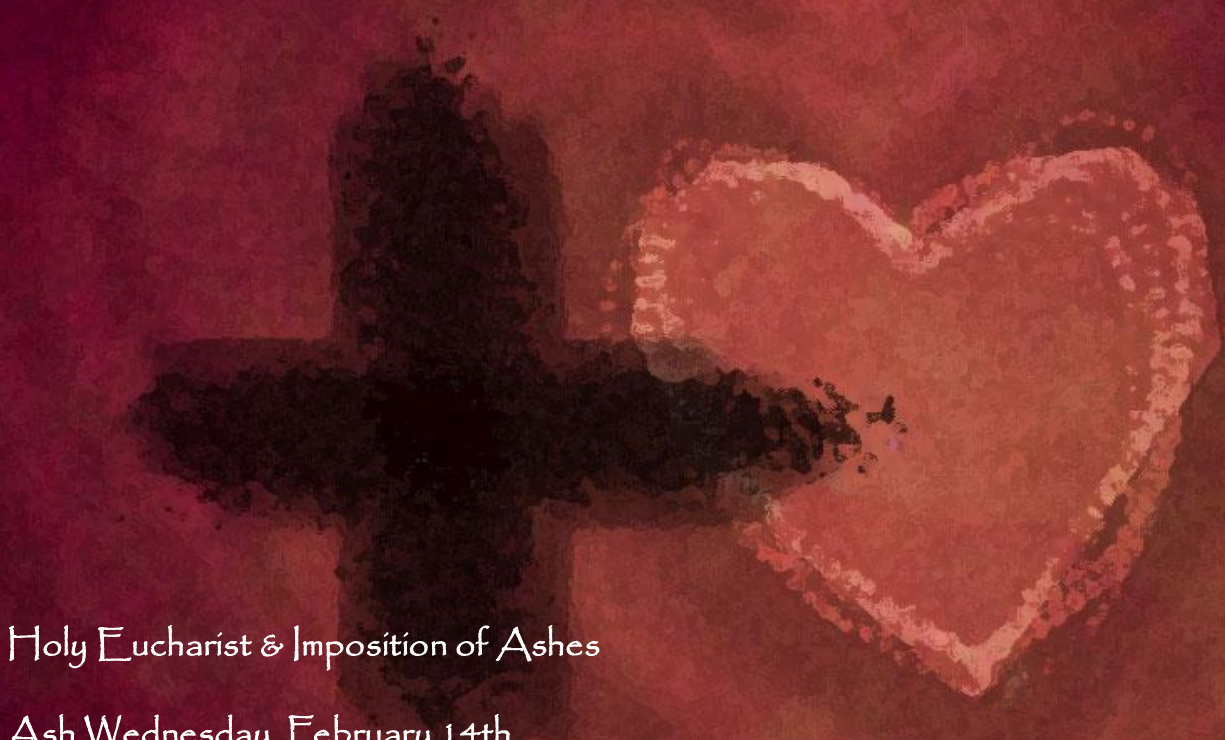


† Recovery & Self-Reflection Group

Every Sunday evening at 7 pm in the Guild Room, Gordy Hiltz is convening a new Recovery & Self-Reflection group. It will be a

"fellowship meeting for those who are looking to make amends with past decisions by reflecting on where we've been, are now, and would like to be. This will be accomplished using topic guided discussions, increasing self awareness for our day to day actions, with the goal of being a slightly better version of ourselves from who we were the day before each and every day."





Holy Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes

Ash Wednesday, February 14th

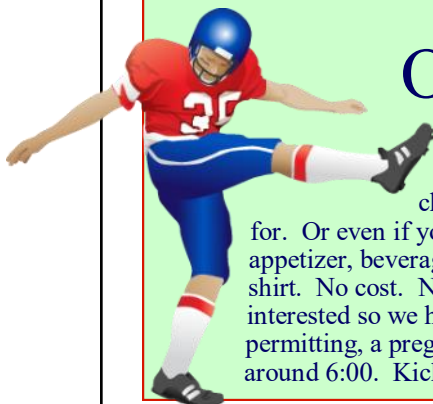
10:00 am & 7:30 pm



ST. PAUL'S PARISH
EPISCOPAL-ANGLICAN

HOME RECTOR SEARCH ▾ CALENDAR ABOUT ▾ GIVE MINISTRIES ▾ PUBLICATIONS ▾

Website Links - Usher, acolyte, lector, intercessor, and lay reader schedules are published monthly on our website at [saintpaulsbrookfield.com / parish ministries / acolytes-lay-readers-lectors-intercessors / downloads](http://saintpaulsbrookfield.com/parish-ministries/acolytes-lay-readers-lectors-intercessors/downloads). Our parish member directory is posted on our website at [saintpaulsbrookfield.com / about / member directory / downloads](http://saintpaulsbrookfield.com/about/member-directory/downloads).



† **"It's Good!"**

On Sunday, February 11th we will be hosting our 9th annual Super Bowl party! We're setting up our big screen in the Guild Room. And you're invited. Men, women, children. It doesn't matter who you're rooting for. Or even if you like football. Just bring yourself, your favorite appetizer, beverage or snacks. And maybe wear your favorite team shirt. No cost. No fuss. Contact Ron Switzer or Dave Szen if you're interested so we have an idea who's bringing what. Weather permitting, a pregame tailgate party is a possibility! We start around 6:00. Kickoff is 6:30 pm.





The Arcadian Wild

Friday, April 12, 2024
7:30pm
w/ guest
On The Trail



Tix & Info at www.communitycoffeehouse.org

Psalm 122:6

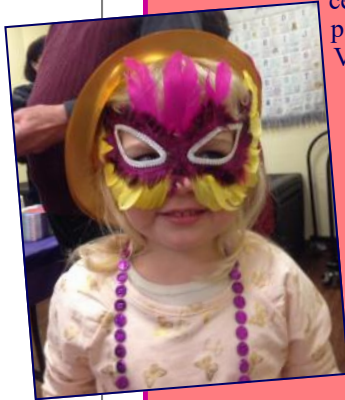
Pray
for the
peace
of
Jerusalem;

May they prosper that love you.

† Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Mardi Gras Valentine's Day Extravaganza

Everyone is invited to Saint Paul's Annual Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday, February 13th, from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. Come celebrate the final moments before Lent begins with pancakes and games, beads and balloons! And since Valentine's Day falls on Ash Wednesday we'll also celebrate his day as well.

A freewill offering will be accepted.



† Food Pantry Needs



Food Pantry Needs

As we learned in the sermon recently a rare item in food pantries is: **Shelf-stable and Powdered Milk** - Because no fridge is required to keep this milk fresh, it's accessible for everyone. Plus, it provides much-needed calcium and protein.

The food pantries are in need of the following items:

- Applesauce.
- Canned Beans
- Canned Chicken
- Canned Fish (Tuna and Salmon)
- Canned Meat (SPAM and Ham)
- Canned Vegetables
- Cooking Oils (Olive and Canola)
- Crackers
- Dried Herbs and Spices
- Fruit (Canned or Dried)
- Granola Bars
- Instant Mashed Potatoes
- Meals in a Box
- Nuts
- Pasta
- Peanut Butter
- Rice
- Shelf-Stable Milk
- Soup, Stew and Chili
- Whole Grain Cereal
- They also welcome donations of the usual canned/boxed items: beans, cereal, potatoes, soup, jelly, tuna/chicken, vegetables, pet food.

Baby items such as baby food and diapers are also a critical need and in demand.

JESUS DOESN'T CARE HOW MANY BIBLE VERSES YOU HAVE MEMORIZED.

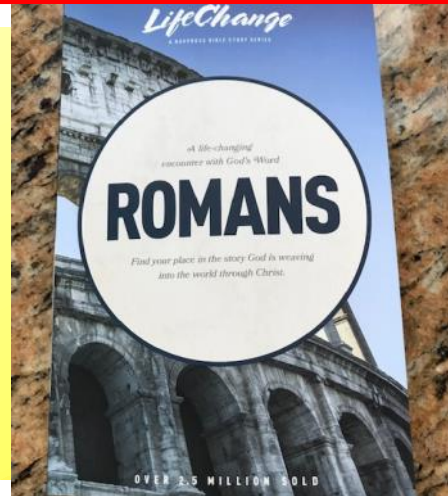


HE CARES ABOUT HOW YOU TREAT PEOPLE.

Shelters & Food Pantries also need your used backpacks for the homeless to carry their possessions.

† Ladies Tuesday Morning Bible Study

The Tuesday morning Ladies Bible Study is beginning a LifeChange Bible study of Romans. All women are invited to join us, Tuesday's from 9:30 to 11 am, in person (the Guild Room) and through Zoom. Contact Mary Beth Durkin durkin.mb@gmail.com for the Zoom link and further information.



† Wednesday Service Growing in Popularity

Our mid-week Wednesday morning 10 am Holy Eucharist with healing prayer has been growing consistently. With live music and a brief homily, this service is just what you need to sustain you through the week. Come join us and check it out or watch on YouTube Live.

||| A THIRD OF US

† Praying for the 1/3 of our world that are still unreached with the Gospel.

Uyghur

Country: China | Population: 11,768,000 | Language: Uyghur | Main Religion: Islam | Evangelical: 0.01%

The Uyghurs, Turkic farmers from western China, live in a region known as East Turkestan and may be the best-known people of Central Asia. They have a rich cultural history going back almost 4,000 years. Nestorian missionaries first appeared in Central Asia during the 500s AD. By the 12th and 13th centuries, roughly eight million people were considered Christian. Islam also began taking root at that time and became the dominant religion by the 1400s. Swedish missionaries planted a small Uyghur church during the 1890s. In 1933, Abdullah Khan expelled the missionaries and martyred the Uyghur believers. Today, most Uyghurs practice a superstitious form of Sunni Islam. Chinese authorities heavily persecute them. Pray that the Gospel would take root among the Uyghurs and bring hope to the millions detained in internment camps. Pray that Han Chinese Christians would serve faithfully as Jesus' voice and hands to those who are suffering and would be an encouragement and support to the tiny Uyghur church.



THE
Episcopal
CHURCH



February 4, 2024 – Epiphany 5 (B)
Becoming Beloved Community Grants

Applications are open for another round of Becoming Beloved Community grants to help support The Episcopal Church’s work of racial justice, healing, reconciliation, and creation care. The deadline to apply is **March 1**.

Find criteria and the application online at iam.ec/bbcg.

Funds for these grants were first allocated in 2018 by the 79th General Convention; in 2022, the 80th General Convention approved further funding “for the continued implementation of additional work of organizing our efforts to respond to social and racial injustice and grow a Beloved Community of healers, justice makers and reconcilers.”

Applicants are encouraged to first reflect on The Episcopal Church’s resource, “Becoming Beloved Community Where You Are,” which describes specific ways to engage in this work. Projects that advance any of the quadrants of the Becoming Beloved Community labyrinth are welcomed.

Grants include seed grants up to \$7,500 and impact grants up to \$15,000. Seed grants are geared toward groups launching new projects or growing existing projects. Impact grants are aimed primarily at increasing the capacity, impact, and reach of communities and institutions already working to advance justice, healing, reconciliation, and creation care.



“These grants are more than just financial support; they are a testament to our unwavering commitment to fostering inclusive, loving communities that embody the spirit of togetherness and understanding,” said the Rev. Edwin Johnson, chair of the Becoming Beloved Community Advisory Group. “Each grant represents a unique opportunity to bring transformative projects to life—projects that build bridges, heal divides, and spread love in tangible ways.”

Since 2019, approximately 80 projects have been funded by Becoming Beloved Community grants for a total of \$808,850.

Camp Washington Invites You to Join

WINTER

wonderland weekend

MISSING CAMP?

Come to camp for the weekend to have fun in the snow, hang out with new and old friends, and to make memories!

Ages 7-12 | Cost: \$175

February 16-18, 2024

NO SNOW? NEVER FEAR! WINTER FUN WILL GO ON!

Register at:

www.campwashington.org/programs



Email khandlong@campwashington.org with any questions!

Camp Washington | 190 Kenyon Rd, Lakeside, CT 06758 | (860) 567-9623

† **Sunday School Change!**

ATTN: PARENTS OF ALL SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS, preschool- Gr. 8:
Starting this Sunday, February 4th, Sunday School classes will start at 10:30 am. Please bring your children directly to their classrooms. The teachers will be ready for

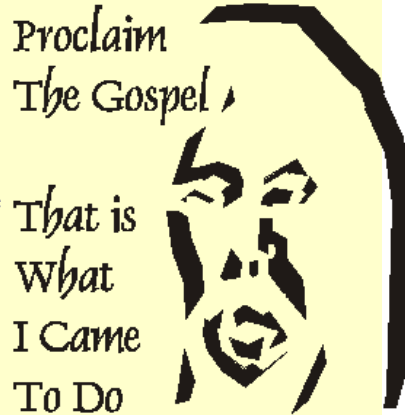


them. Visitors with children in the 10:30 service who want to "try out" our Sun. School may still be dismissed to classes right after the first praise song. Questions? Ask a Sun. School teacher or Julie Astbury, Sun. School Administrator. Students will return to their parents in time for Holy Communion.



† **What I Came to Do**

Jesus is exhausted. His power to cure illness made him a free doctor. At the time physicians were primitive and usually ineffective. The sick were thought to be "possessed" by evil spirits, rather than germs. The devil has successfully side-tracked Christ's true ministry. This explains his somewhat strange response when Peter announces that "...everyone is looking for you." Jesus proclaims that it is time to move on to other areas. In effect, he is abandoning his home base in Capernaum. Our Lord reveals the real focus of his career. He is a teacher with the most important lessons that will ever be shared. He does not want to be a healer, but a educator. He came to teach the way to eternal life in God.



COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

Feb 4th	8 am - Polly Sorrentino	10:30 am - Switzer's
Feb 11th	8 am - Roginski's	10:30 am - Barbieri's
Feb 18th	8 am - Huber's	10:30 am - Monique Gordon



Contact Mary Allen at 203-775-6633 or chamla@charter.net.





This spring, Jericho is having THREE fundraising events in Danbury to support our programs and services to at-risk youth. Save the dates, tell your friends, get your tickets!



GOLF OUTING - MAY 8, RICHTER PARK

Join us at Richter for a fun day on the links supporting our youth programs! Registration and lunch begins at 11:00 am; shotgun start at 1:00 pm. Dinner & awards.

Register at <https://bit.ly/JPgolf2024>



MENTORING BREAKFAST - MAY 22, AMBER ROOM

We LOVE having breakfast with 300+ of our closest friends every year! We're excited to have Dr. John Murphy, CEO of Nuvance Health, as our Keynote Speaker. As always, expect to be moved as we share how Jericho has had an impact among the youth we serve.

Tickets at <https://bit.ly/JPbreakfast2024>



RUN THE RACE 5K - JUNE 29, ROGERS PARK

In partnership with Athletes of Christ

Runner and walkers will hit the city streets in support of both Jericho's and Athletes of Christs' programs for at-risk youth. Join us for a 5K run, or bring your family and walk to add your support! T-shirts, awards, etc.

Register at <https://runsignup.com/Race/CT/Danbury/aocruntherace>

**SPONSORSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE FOR ALL EVENTS!
CONTACT LISA SIEDLECKI AT LISA@JERICHOPARTNERSHIP.ORG
OR (203) 791-1180 (PRESS 2)**



† Exactly Why Jericho Partnership Exists

January, 2024

Madalena* (not her real name) came to the US from Mexico 20+ years ago, simply for a better life.

While it's likely been better, it certainly hasn't been easy - filled with heartache and abandonment, as well as financial and health challenges. She's struggled to provide for her children, and has had no choice but to leave them with babysitters daily while she worked two full-time jobs at fast-food restaurants, just to get by. With no family in the US, Christmas usually meant a blank space under the tree.

Finances were tough, but worse was the fact that Madalena was feeling unwell all the time. Finally in 2018, in debilitating pain, she underwent a barrage of doctor visits, tests and scans, which finally led to her being diagnosed with an auto-immune disease that would leave her unable to work.

At her diagnosis, she said her "heart was shattered." But things got worse from there. Following a surgery in 2019, she had complications she said led to a months-long hospital stay. The suffocating medical bills mounted.

It's been Madalena's involvement with Jericho that's changed her world - and given her a reason to smile.

The food she's received through Jericho's food pantry for the past three+ years - staples, plus fresh produce, proteins, dairy, and bakery items - has kept her and her children nourished during these times of struggle.

And, this past Christmas, she registered her children for Jericho's Angel Tree project, where donors buy Christmas gifts for kids in need. This holiday, her youngest kids - aged 9 and 5 - had gifts to open on Christmas morning.

Madalena weeps joyful tears when expressing her gratitude to strangers that would spend their time and money purchasing items on her kids' Christmas wish list. Or donating food to a pantry.

But that's precisely what sharing the love of Christ looks like. And providing this sort of wraparound care is exactly why Jericho Partnership exists.

Thank you, Village, for enabling us to love those most in need!

Mark D. Lounsbury and Lisa Siedlecki, Co-Executive Directors



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Dale Friedly celebrates on Friday. **Julie Astbury, Heather Melody & Heather Onorato** blow out candles Saturday. **Joyce McKenna, Haley Perry & Gordon Hiltz, IV** open presents on Sunday. Tuesday is the big day for **Lois Hunt & Chuck Paulson**. Have a blessed day everyone!



RFB 

Presents

COFFEE WITH JESUS



Make me lie down in green pastures, Jesus. Lead me beside still waters.



You're figuring it out, Lisa.

I alone can find these places and lead you to them.

Restore My Soul



And restore my soul?



That's my job as the good shepherd, Lisa.

Stay close. We're going to some really cool places.



©Radio Free Babylon. All rights reserved. The 23rd Psalm can probably be quoted, at least in part, by the most devout atheist. It's probably preached, or at least spoken, at 75% of funerals. It speaks of a calm we cannot find by ourselves. Green pastures. Still waters. Lying down. Goodness and mercy following us all the days of our lives. Dwelling in the house of the Lord forever. But guess what? You have to be a sheep. You have to surrender. There's the hard part. Give yourself up.

† This Sunday's Readings

(Click on the red links for the readings)

Restored to Wholeness

Isaiah 40:21-31

In our Hebrew Bible lesson the prophet Isaiah summons the people to renew their trust and confidence in God. God alone is sovereign, the Lord of all that exists, the creator of the earth and its creatures and the fount of understanding. Those who turn to the Lord will find their strength replenished: they will not be disappointed.

Psalm 147:1-12, 21c

A hymn of praise to the Lord, who rules over nature in wisdom and has shown faithfulness to Israel.

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

In this reading we learn how Paul seeks to become all things to all people in order that he may freely and without hindrance share the gospel with them. He takes no special pride in his preaching of the gospel because that is his commission from the Lord. In order not to create unnecessary difficulties, he is willing to live under the law among Jews and outside the law among Gentiles. Some may misunderstand and think him unprincipled, but Paul's only concern is the essentials of the gospel.

Mark 1:29-39

Our gospel tells of healing events which took place toward the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Peter's mother-in-law is cured of fever. Many flock to Jesus. He heals them and casts out the demons who recognize him for who he is. A brief retreat ends because of the pressing need to continue his mission. The power of the kingdom of God is made manifest through his words and deeds.



Mark 1:29-39

Jesus' followers have an immediate and worthy need that should be attended to. It is something they have already done - with great success - and could do again - also likely with great success. Very tempting. But it is not, "What I came out to do."



† Sermon Shorts

To replay all our sermons, audio and videos follow this link for the [Sunday Sermons](#). Check out our [Sermon Archives](#) as well.

† Your Prayers Are Requested For...

It is such an intimate time when praying for the health and well being of others and such a privilege. Jesus went through Galilee preaching and healing and showing compassion to those in need. As God comes no less today to those for whom we pray, let us offer our prayers to God for:

.....Harlan Jessup, Jan Brochu, Ed Licence and other parishioners convalescing in extended care facilities.

.....Christ & the Epiphany, East Haven; St. John's, East Windsor; Christ Church, Easton; Holy Trinity, Enfield.

.....Revival at St. Paul's and the greater Danbury area.

.....Comite Hispano, Spanish-language Cursillo, Lqtino/Hispanic ministries in CT.

.....For the Peace of Jerusalem. - *Psalm 122:6*

.....Clayton Ferry, Barbara Hock, Jim Megura, Peter Scalzo, Jr., Gail, Doris, Karen, Beverly Hall, Robert, Eve, Roger, Fred, Cynthia, Rocky, Valerie, Heidi Pinheiro, Donna, Dale Mitchell, Larry, Joe, Ruth, Janet, Bonnie, Fr. Bill Loring, Clo Improta, Elana and Veronika continued healing.

.....the people of [Ukraine](#); the people of [Republic of Indonesia](#); the people of [Thailand](#); the bishop, clergy and laity of the Diocese of Calgary – The Anglican Church of Canada; and our sister and brother members of the [Evangelical Reformed Church in Bavaria and North-Western Germany](#).

.....For all who exercise authority: that they may use their authority as Jesus did, to free people, to heal the sick, and to build up the community.

.....[Victory Christian Center](#), Danbury and their Food Pantry, which is the recipient of our food basket collections for the month of February.

.....[Immanuel Lutheran Church](#), Danbury, a partner congregation of the Jericho Partnership.

.....Our missionaries, Will & Becky McLaughlin and their family, and their ministry in Cambodia; the Holy Spirit will provide them with words that communicate effectively in the Cambodian culture and language.

.....[Joy in God's Creation](#).

.....that - just as Jesus rose early to pray - we, too, may find time in our day to be with God and to receive strength and nourishment from Him.

.....the one third of humanity that does not have access to the gospel, for zealous preachers of the word, that by the Holy Spirit, they that they would become strong in their faith, grow in numbers and be a light to those around them.

.....all who are suffering: that God will protect those who are in the cold, guide the unemployed to new job opportunities, and help families find sufficient food.

.....[Peace Among the Nations](#).



continually
pray
thankfull
joyful
be
Thessalonians
5:16-18
always



The Gospel According to Mark

An animated walk through of the Gospel according to Mark.
Want to see more?

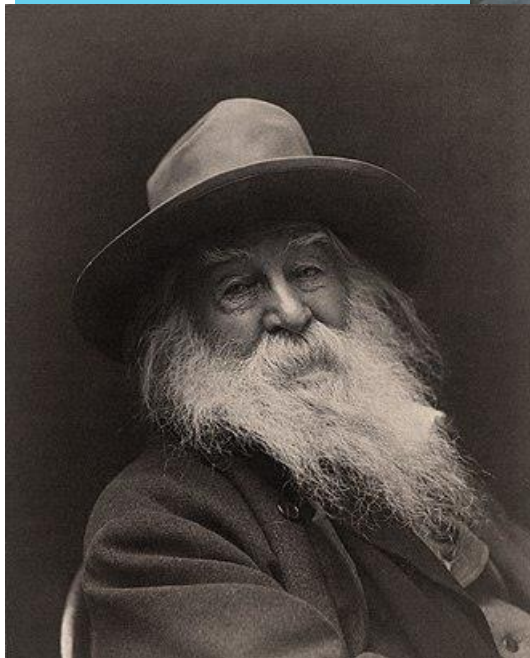


Just For the Joy of It!

(And Christian Fellowship)

Random Fact of the Week!

Did you know ... that Walt Whitman's brain was donated to the American Anthropometric Society but was accidentally destroyed?



Even though I walk through the valley where/
if I SEE MY SHADOW I will not fear 6 more
weeks of WINTER. Ps 23 GHV (GROUND HOG version)



† It Takes An Editorial Board
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Chuck Allen, Dan Bacon, Jack Collins, Dot Crocker, Mary Beth Durkin, Gordy Hiltz, Jim Miller, Kirsten Peterson, John Sarver, Bill Schrull, George Stowell, Pam Szen, David Szen, Carol Wheeler, Don Winkley.

Ecclesiasticus 43:27 - We could say more but could never say enough; let the final word be: 'He is the all.' - 30 -