

ONE VOICE

Weekly Newsletter of the United Church of Phelps

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FROM THE TRANSITIONAL PASTOR: PART 2

Last week, we looked at the first six verses of Psalm 139. These verses tell us that God knows us even better than we know ourselves and yet God still watches over us and blesses us.

This week, let's consider the following verses:

7 I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence!

8 If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I go down to the grave, you are there.

9 If I ride the wings of the morning, if I dwell by the farthest oceans,

10 even there your hand will guide me, and your strength will support me.

11 I could ask the darkness to hide me and the light around me to become night—

12 but even in darkness I cannot hide from you. To you the night shines as bright as day. Darkness and light are the same to you.

Personalize it as we did last week by replacing pronouns with your name. Notice things that stand out to you. Where is God right now? What is God doing in your life?

Wow! Did you pay attention to verse 7? You can *never* escape God's presence! Then why does it seem like God isn't present at times? This passage says God is ALWAYS with you, always by your side, always wanting to guide you and support you. There is no place you can go that God is not there!

Is that comforting to you? Think about the places you have been in your life and the things you have done. God was there! Did you see God? Did you sense God's presence? Were you aware that God was waiting to guide you in the decisions you were making and supporting you in the difficult times?

God is with you right NOW! God knows exactly how you are responding to social distancing, how you are spending your time, what you are doing that tears you down or builds you up, and what you are focused on. Are you giving God honor and glory with your life at this time? Or are you addicted to the news and the devastating numbers of those who have lost their lives to COVID-19?

I challenge you to turn off all news sources, with the exception of once a day. Focus on God. How is God guiding you? Where is God supporting you? What might you change about your new "normal" that would help you be more aware of God's presence with you during this time?

When was the last time you thanked God for anything? Watch each day what God is doing in your life and around you. Try making a list. Add something to the list every day. Make sure you force yourself to think of things to thank God for that are different every day.

May this time turn from something scary, unpredictable, and depressing into a time of spiritual growth and bringing you closer to God each and every day as you thank God for all your blessings!

God bless! *Ellen*

May Celebrations



May 4 - Haley Motzer May 24 – Ann Beauchemin
May 19 - Roger Boise May 27– Dan Moracco
May 20 – Walt Petersen



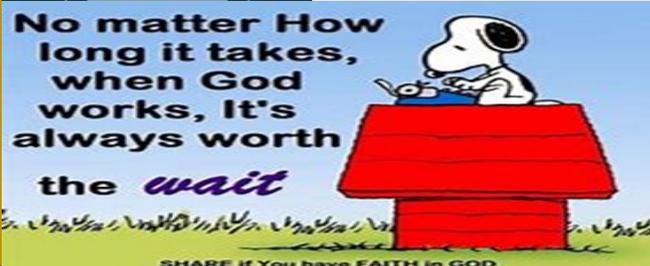
Nelson & Jane Gulvin
Happy 70th Wedding Anniversary

Nan & Jerry Clark
Happy 59th Wedding Anniversary

Dear Lord,
HELP ME CHOOSE MY WORDS WISELY.
HELP ME SPEAK LIFE INTO THOSE
AROUND ME TODAY—TO BE A
SOURCE OF *encouragement*
RATHER THAN DISCOURAGEMENT,
OF *hope* RATHER THAN HURT,
AND OF *love* RATHER THAN PAIN.



Due to many requests
Sunday worship will
now
Be available at
9:00 a.m.



Keeping in touch

I am sure many of you are wondering how our favorite Kenyan nurse is doing, so I thought I would update you. After graduating and passing her NY State nursing boards, Becky went to work at Unity Hospital as a full time nurse. The visa she had that allowed her to do this was for the period of one year, so she finished that year in August. In the meantime, she applied to and was accepted into the B.S.N. program at SUNY Brockport. She was also awarded a small scholarship to help with tuition.

She started at Brockport fall of last year, and plans to be finished with her Bachelor's Degree at the end of the spring semester 2021. She has chosen to double major in Nursing and Health Care Administration. Last fall and early winter she served as a private night nurse for an elderly gentleman, but he passed away in December. She is currently working as a travel nurse Friday through Sunday at Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse, in addition to her class work. A busy girl, as always!! We were relieved to hear she is on the Brain Injury Rehab ward....NOT so not much COVID-19 exposure risk for her!

Her current address, if you want to get in touch with her, is:

Becky Midodo
151 Dellwood Circle, Apt. 4
Rochester, NY 14616

FOOD FOR *THOUGHT*

HEAVEN ON EARTH DEVOTIONAL BY CHRIS TIEGREEN

Last Things Later “What I have said is kept secret and sealed until the time of the end”. Daniel 12:9

IN WORD

When the truth is told, mysteries are solved. At least that’s the way it is with human beings, and that’s what we expect from Scripture. But the dynamic doesn’t usually apply to God; His revelation often deepens the mysteries surrounding it. When God speaks, His people learn something. And when we learn from Him, more questions are raised.

The Lord’s word to Daniel is typical of His word to any of us: He reveals Himself and hides Himself. He spells out truth for us, and He seals it up in secrecy. The entire Bible is a revelation of ultimate truth, and yet it leads to more ultimate questions that we cannot have answered until the end of time. The more we know about God, the more we want to know.

Haven’t you seen this principle at work? We are given a clear picture of how sin entered this world, but why God let the serpent roam the Garden remains a mystery to us. We marvel at Israel’s exodus from Egypt, but God gives us no answer about why His chosen people were enslaved for four hundred years to begin with. We have seen the glory of the Son in the Cross that redeems us, but we still haven’t plumbed the depths of its mysteries. Every time God reveals a “what”, we feel compelled to ask a “why”. And the absence of answers drives us deeper into Him.

IN DEED

That’s how God designed His Word. He told Daniel deep mysteries of the Kingdom, but He only whetted the prophet’s appetite. The ultimate end remained sealed; full disclosure would not come for ages.

Why does God operate this way? That itself is a mystery, but we can guess at why: His people seek Him only when their appetites have been whetted. Not before, and not after being satisfied. And God wants to be sought. So He reveals truth and waits. He waits for us to come further in, to dive into the mysteries, to seek the knowledge only He has—until the day the mysteries are revealed.

“We taste Thee, O Thou living bread, and long to feast upon Thee still” ~ BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX

How to make Birdseed Disk Feeder



You will need:

- Mason jar lid band
- 3/4 cup birdseed
- Pack of unflavored gelatin
- 1/4 cup boiling water
- Twine



How to:

1. Combine the gelatin and water in a bowl. Stir till dissolved.
2. Mix in birdseed, coating all of it with the gelatin mixture.
3. Loop some twine through the mason band. Place on wax paper.
4. Fill the band with the birdseed mixture. Be sure to press it down fill up the band.
5. Allow to sit for a few hours to harden and once they are hardened, they are ready to hang outside for your birds to enjoy.

The United Church of Phelps

May 3, 2020

10:50 AM

Boldface text is said in unison

PRAISE SONGS

I Will Rise by Chris Tomlin

There's a peace I've come to know
Though my heart and flesh may fail
There's an anchor for my soul
I can say "It is well"
Jesus has overcome
And the grave is overwhelmed
The victory is won
He is risen from the dead
And I will rise when He calls my name
No more sorrow, no more pain
I will rise on eagles' wings
Before my God fall on my knees
And rise
I will rise
There's a day that's drawing near
When this darkness breaks to light
And the shadows disappear
And my faith shall be my eyes
Jesus has overcome
And the grave is overwhelmed
The victory is won
He is risen from the dead
And I will rise when He calls my name
No more sorrow, no more pain
I will rise on eagles' wings
Before my God fall on my knees
And rise
I will rise
And I hear the voice of many angels sing,
"Worthy is the Lamb"
And I hear the cry of every longing heart,
"Worthy is the Lamb"
And I hear the voice of many angels sing,
"Worthy is the Lamb"
And I hear the cry of every longing heart,
"Worthy is the Lamb"
And I will rise when He calls my name
No more sorrow, no more pain
I will rise on eagles' wings
Before my God fall on my knees
And rise
I will rise

Who You Say I Am by Hillsong

VERSE 1

Who am I that the highest King
Would welcome me
I was lost but He brought me in
Oh His love for me
Oh His love for me

CHORUS

Who the Son sets free
Oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God
Yes I am

VERSE 2

Free at last
He has ransomed me
His grace runs deep
While I was a slave to sin
Jesus died for me
Yes He died for me

CHORUS 2

Who the Son sets free
Oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God
Yes I am
In my Father's house
There's a place for me
I'm a child of God
Yes I am

BRIDGE

I am chosen
Not forsaken
I am who You say I am
You are for me
Not against me
I am who You say I am

WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC

CALL TO WORSHIP

God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, is faithful.

He is a faithful Lord, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands.

His faithfulness reaches to the skies and continues throughout all generations into eternity.

We therefore praise the faithfulness of our Lord Jesus Christ, saying, "Great is your faithfulness!"

We will exalt and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done marvelous things.

Great is your faithfulness to us, O Lord, our God.

* SONG Hymn of Promise

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
There's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity,
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

CONFESSION

Father, we are sorry for the many times we have left you and chosen to satisfy our own selfish desires. For the times we have hurt the members of our families by refusing to do our share of the family tasks. For the times we were unkind and impatient with those who needed our time and concern. For the times we were too weak to stand up for what was right and allowed others to suffer because of our cowardice. For the times we refused to forgive others. Father, we have sinned. Forgive us! Amen.

*SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Alleluia! Amen.

GOD'S WORD Romans 11

MESSAGE Are Your "Roots" Sinking Deep?

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

* SONG My Faith Looks Up to Thee

My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine: Now hear me while I pray, Take all my guilt away, O let me from this day Be wholly Thine.

May Thy rich grace impart Strength to my fainting heart, My zeal inspire; As Thou hast died for me, O may my love to Thee Pure, warm, and changeless be, A living fire!

While life's dark maze I tread, And griefs around me spread, Be though my guide; Bid darkness turn to day, Wipe sorrow's tears away, Nor let me ever stray From Thee aside.

Where ends life's transient dream, When death's cold, sullen stream Shall o'er me roll, Blest Savior, then, in love, Fear and distrust remove; O bear me safe above, A ransomed soul!

*****BLESSING*****