

Good News Daily
The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

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Sunday, August 5

2 Corinthians 9:6-15 *Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times you may abound in every good work. (vv.7-8 ESV)*

As my husband and I approach the autumn of our years, we are enjoying the blessings of gifts and acquisitions that more than forty years of marriage and children have gathered. And now it is time to disperse those blessings in that proverbial action of “downsizing”. It is easy to cast off the things that hold little emotional value, but so many objects hold special memories for us. They require the hard decisions. Family furniture and furnishings passed down through the years no longer have a place in the homes of our next generation. It gives us great joy when they do accept some of the things that will fit in their homes. As I contemplate the task ahead, my mind and heart are often redirected to the early followers of Christ who willingly sold all their possessions, gave to the poor, and followed him.

Judges 6:1-24; Psalms 93, 96; Mark 3:20-30

Include in your prayers: Cindy Croushore, Carol Layton, Sandy, Sam, Mirabelle Wrist, Janie Greene, Joey Mitchell, Wally Bates, Kaye Bischoff, Stan and Shirley Connell, Erin McClain, Steve, Drew Fogg, Irene McAviney, Mrs. Jean Gantzer Ring, Mark Connell, Alice Hopkinson and family, Rocky Albrect, Sebastian Terrell, Kristen Robertson, Paul Schweizer, Pat Hegarty, Trish Hegarty, Tom Hegarty, Joe Hegarty, Patricia Malloy, Patricia Vreeland, Michael, Chuck, Bernie Oliver, Tegan, Marcia Pollard, Pat Davenport, Robert and Nancy Hart, Lynn Smith

Monday, August 6

Judges 6:25-40 *Then Gideon said to God, “If you will save Israel by my hand, as you have said, behold, I am laying a fleece of wool on the threshing floor. If there is dew on the fleece alone, and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall know that you will save Israel by my hand, as you have said.” And it was so. (vv.36-38a)*

In our daily lives, we experience conflicting messages from advertisers, media, and salespeople, so we do research to prove their claims. Before we purchase a product or a service we need “proof positive” that it will perform. We need to see for ourselves. And so, too, did Gideon demand proof as we read this week in Judges. Gideon is called to lead Israel against the Midianites. Despite knowing that God led the Israelites out of bondage, he still asks for a show of proof that God will be with him to back him up if he undertakes the challenge. And he requested proof three times! In our daily lives, we read our Bibles that teach us about miracles and acts of faith. That is the only proof we need to trust in God and his plan for us.

Psalm 80; Acts 2:37-47; John 1:1-18

Include in your prayers: Nico Clothier, Julia Montgomery, Sarah Lawler, Rob Steiner, Perry, Pam Heatley, Vi Matthews, Jimmy Gustafson, Carlos Salmán, Arnie Selna, Stephen Johnson, Jr. & Jennifer Corson, Jenny Bischoff, Annie Beebe, Adam, Alice, Guy Carpenter, Scott Breuer, Althea Lewis, Sally Loetell, Taylor/Block family, Benedette and Mark, Peter Mariades, Deborah Bowen, Mervin Williams and son Hunter, Amanda Smith, Bill Lively, Tom Johnson, Susie, Susan Miller, Dan Burg, Brooke Hartman, Todd Baron, Thesesa Marclante, Tiffany

Tuesday, August 7

Psalm 78:1-39 *They did not keep God's covenant, but refused to walk according to his law. Yet he, being compassionate, atoned for their iniquity and did not destroy them; he restrained his anger often and did not stir up all his wrath.* (vv.10, 38)

Parenting is replete with joyful, fascinating, and humorous moments. It also has its vexing and distressing scenes. Each parenting style is unique, but there are basics that apply to all families. Parents set the rules and expectations; children challenge, defy, test, and often ignore the rules. Then follows a punishment period before reconciliation. In today's psalm, we are reminded that God as our Father set the rules and we, along with the generations, disobeyed His commandments despite His enduring love that continued to provide sustenance and mercy. He sees through our hearts when we are not truthful, yet He forgives us. He delights in us as our Father, but still commands that we obey Him.

Judges 7:1-18; Acts 3:1-11; John 1:19-28

Include in your prayers: Karin Armbruster, Ricardo Acuña, Charlie Gasperino, Trey Harris, Joanna Aras, Marilyn Lyren, Margaret Nicholas, Kay Bailey, Debra Lasek and Noel Lasek, Ashley M. Muñoz, Dombrovski Family, Frank Lepore, Mustapick family, Gus West, Steve, Jan and Lois, Tom and Jan Bradley, Wendy Frezza, Jeff Breiler, Barry Horenstein, Vader and Annie, Patty Kidwell, Peter Pawlikowski, Janet Hall, Rose F., Bob and Barbara Thorne, Elaine S., Barbara Nelson

Wednesday, August 8

Psalm 119:97-120 *Uphold me according to your promise, that I may live, and let me not be put to shame in my hope! Hold me up, that I may be safe and have regard for your statutes continually!* (vv.116-117)

The beauty of these two verses is their simplicity in asking God first to live a good life and then to be safe in that life. A good life is following the teachings of Jesus by showing love to all. A safe life is diverting evil and harmful things away from us. And notice how “Uphold me” and “Hold me up” seem to be poetically repetitive, but the phrases here have subtle differences. “Uphold” means support, confirm, sustain, and maintain, alluding to the psalmist's continual devotion to God's will. “Hold me up” implies a grasp or support to refrain from stumbling along life's paths. To live a good life and to be safe are surely our desires as well. We will always face adversity, but with God's help we will be guided through the troubles.

Judges 7:19—8:12; Acts 3:12-26; John 1:29-42

Include in your prayers: Leslie Hahn, Patty Hart, Richard and Margaret Downing, Lance Block, Valentine Houyvet, Rodney Bivens, Helen, Sue Drinkwater, Bernie Parker, Amy Astion, Gerard and Andrea & their families, Kelly McCarthy, Kim Jackson Mattraw and family, Tara Polk, Yvonne Reiner, Joe Bishop, Katie Kish, Seth and Sophia, Dennis Uthe, Lori Zenobia, Connie and Joe D'Alessandro, Dale Ann Lawler, Richie Keen, Olivia and Vincent, Phil Hart, O'Neal Bardin, III, Helen Caterer, Joy Skeffington

Thursday, August 9

Acts 4:1-12 *This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone.* (v.11)

The young man is autistic. He attended a local high school and graduated with his class. He always said that he was autistic, but he was not stupid. Let's call him Steven. Several weeks after graduation, he and his dad happened to stop into the local coffee shop. Steven received a great big hug by the worker who ran from behind the counter to greet him. Dad was introduced, and the two young men caught up on news. Several days later Dad returned to the coffee shop to ask the worker about how he knew his son. The story is priceless. The worker said that he struggled with an advanced math course that he needed for graduation. Steven offered to tutor him during lunch for the better part of two semesters. The worker graduated and was exceedingly grateful for the help that was offered by Steven.

It is easy to overlook the perceived "least" among us. Yet everyone is blessed with a talent that is not apparent on the surface.

Judges 8:22-35; Psalm 145; John 1:43-51

Include in your prayers: Ruth Dans, Kristi Bronkema, Debbie Rannie, Lois Berning, Grace Wasko, Paul Gerstenberger, Shirley Hazen, Fran Labossiere, Pat Pinckney, Howard Smith, Patricia Herbert, Ryan Miller, Carina DeSimone, Susan Sakin, Timothy May, Rose Hawley, Bob Barnes, Eileen Kerwick, Alondrea and Derrick, Pat Cohen, Bob, Reno family, Nancy Scarpa, Laura Davis, Wade and Cheryl, Greg Greenwald, Rev. Fred Hart, Molly, Luke and Jonny, Savannah Vader, Bella and Sophie Barton, Carol and Bert French, Abigale French, The Kinard family, Laura, John Schmidt, Rosemary Gerstenberg, Adam Daily, Sean and Becky Talbot, Rebecca Hance

Friday, August 10

Acts 4:13-31 *So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard."* (vv.18-20)

Standing up for what you believe in takes courage and boldness, especially when your adversary holds power or rank. In today's reading, Peter and John were perceived as common and uneducated men by the high priests of Jerusalem, yet the priests were aware of the miraculous healing that had occurred. Their only response was for Peter and John to cease talking about Jesus. Led by the Holy Spirit, Christ's followers continued to minister with

boldness. This is a lesson for us in our modern society. With diverse opinions in every aspect of society, it takes boldness to talk about Jesus, to teach his Word, and to minister as he taught us to do.

Judges 9:1-16, 19-21; Psalm 88; Acts 4:13-31; John 2:2-12

Include in your prayers: George Dzama III, Keith Van Cleave, Phil Toren, Wendy Williams, Nan Hanaway, Dru Angst, Richard Dunstan, Cristian Clothier, Carley, Tamlyn, Steve Cella, Marie Buller, Diane's family, Sheila Dionne, Richie Parsons and Suzi James, Stacy, Madeline Hanlon, Muñoz family: Darcy, Roland, Josh, Gladys Muñoz, Barbara Davis, Baby Fagnano, Tim Gooley, Pat Clipp, Linda Roach, Patrick Muise, Frank LePore, Cameron, Wallace family, Pam Gorman, Riley and Padilla family, Raymond Longo, Dennis Shanahan, Elsie Southwick, Manny Gomer, Delores Osborne, Mary Ann Goodfield, Katie, Goobler family, Fred Best

Saturday, August 11

Psalm 90 *You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence.* (v.8)

What were those little secrets that were part of your childhood and are still held in your memory as reminders of the bad stuff you were not supposed to do? Are there still secret sins that are tucked away in your heart and recalled with sorrow and sadness? A most harsh lesson was learned by Ananias and his wife Sapphira as we read in today's Acts lesson. They sinned by withholding proceeds of a sale and lying about it instead of giving all to the poor. The good news is that God, who knows all our sins, will forgive us these sins if we repent and humbly say that we are sorry.

Judges 9:22-25, 50-57; Psalm 87; Acts 4:32—5:11; John 2:13-25

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

by Dorothy Magill

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