

Friday, December 8

Psalm 17 *Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings.* (v.8 KJV)

When I was a little girl, we went to church and Sunday School and Wednesday Night Supper and Vacation Bible School and, well it seems like, every time the doors were open! Often, I would decide I didn't want to go with my friends that were my age to Sunday School class. Instead, I would choose to go to "big" church. My mom would be singing in the choir and I would sit with my Dad, nestled under his big arm in the pew. Now, I wouldn't understand a thing the preacher was saying, but I liked the comfort of sitting and resting under his arm.

Wings are used many times in Scripture to describe protection, shelter, and comfort. To be able to know that the King of Kings offers us protection is truly a gift beyond comprehension.

Amos 5:1-17; Psalm 16; Jude 1-16; Matthew 22:1-14

Birthdays: Bill Tily, David Ralicki

Anniversary: Valentino and Marie Rangel

Friday's Calendar

- 7:00 a.m. AA "Hour of Power"
- 9:00 a.m. A Way Out
- 9:30 a.m. Life Group
- 10:00 a.m. Bible Study
- 8:00 p.m. Friday Night Young Peoples' AA

Today's Ministry: Sunday School Teachers

Saturday, December 9

Psalm 20 *Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.* (v.7 NKJV)

David's troops were mostly foot soldiers. The Bible says when David fought Hadadezer, for example, he had to contend with 7,000 charioteers and 20,000 foot soldiers (2 Samuel 8:3-4). His adversary's battle assets were always superior to his, but David always leaned into the Lord. He understood the battle was the Lord's and not David's.

In my past battles, my historical approach was to throw every resource of time, energy, and necessary capital at a problem. In last few years, I have learned of the sovereignty of the Lord. Not too long ago, I had "chariots" coming at me from all sides. I ran out of all personal resources to address the issues; my mind, body, and spirit were beat down. What seemed improbable and impossible to me, the Lord, over time, began to turn around. He started knocking off the "charioteers".

The Lord has proven, time and time again, that He, in His power, can rise up against my challenges. He has led me in a divine construct that truly shows His hand and will.

Amos 5:18-27; Psalm 21; Jude 17-25; Matthew 22:15-22

Birthdays: Diane Foley, Emily Von Aldenbruck, Becca Bassion

Saturday's Calendar ADVENT QUIET DAY

- 7:00 a.m. AA "Hour of Power"
- 8:30 a.m. Advent Quiet Day
- 9:00 a.m. Shepherd Group
- 9:30 a.m. AA Step Study for Women
- 12:00 p.m. NarcAnon "Clean at Noon"
- 5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II
- 6:30 p.m. NarcAnon "Kleen N Krazy"
- 8:30 p.m. NarcAnon "Not Alone"

Today's Ministry: Sunday Worship Assistants

by Lisa and Charlie Clayton III

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"Growing into Jesus - Reaching out with love"

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St. Mary's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Growing into Jesus - Reaching out with Love

Good News Daily

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Sunday, December 3

Amos 1:1-5, 13—2:8 *The words of Amos, who was among the shepherders from Tekoa...* (v.1 KJV)

God revealed to Amos, a farmer and shepherd, a prophetic call to communicate to the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Amos stated, "I am not a prophet nor a son of a prophet," so he was just a farmer called by God for a special mission.

Dan works on our construction sites from time to time. Dan will do any task asked of him, picking up and hauling materials. In the hierarchy of construction trades, many would consider Dan's tasks as low-level. Dan's countenance, bright smile, and encouraging work are openly available to others. Dan never shirks or complains about the work or the task at hand. At lunch, Dan opens his frayed and well-worn Bible and teaches and encourages men on what the Lord has placed on his heart that day. Dan is a light to all who encounter him. His ministry is the story, not his occupation. The calling of both Amos the prophet and Dan the laborer exhibits to us all that social standing, power, intellect, and circumstances are all irrelevant to the Lord. What is your calling today?

Psalms 146, 147; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Luke 21:5-19

Birthdays: Jurgen Kok, Mara Broderick

Sunday's Calendar

ADVENT WREATHS AVAILABLE IN THE COURTYARD AND PC

- 7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I
- 9:00 a.m. Contemporary Family Worship Service
- 9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II
- 10:15 a.m. Coffee Hour in the Courtyard
- 11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 6:00 p.m. Movie in the Courtyard-Youth Group

Today's Ministry: Shepherd Group

Monday, December 4

Matthew 21:1-11 *Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me."* (v.3 NIV)

This Scripture is a small descriptive verse about Jesus riding into Jerusalem, also known as the Triumphal Entry, which is a significant event that is recorded in all four gospel accounts. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John each put a different spin on their version, which is completely normal when four people describe the same event.

Mark, Luke and John only mention that Jesus sent for one donkey, and that the donkey was young and had never been ridden. Riding on the donkey was in keeping with what leaders did to signify a mission of peace, which of course makes perfect sense. The use of a young animal which had never been ridden symbolized an animal devoted to a sacred purpose, which also makes perfect sense. So, why did Matthew feel it was important to include the fact that Jesus asked to bring both the donkey and her colt? It does satisfy a prophetic Scripture from the Old Testament. And perhaps Matthew realized Jesus didn't see the need separate the colt and mother and upset either one.

This passage has lead me to deeply explore the Triumphal Entry and, as always, I am enlightened and challenged. Everything Jesus did had a reason, a *perfect* reason. The Holy Spirit works in each one of us differently and how thankful I am for his omnipotence.

Amos 2:6-16; Psalms 1, 2, 3; 2 Peter 1:1-11

Birthday: Tom Gilson

Monday's Calendar

7:00 a.m. AA "Hour of Power"
5:30 p.m. ACA Meeting (Adult Children of Alcoholics)
5:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training
6:30 p.m. Life Group

Today's Ministry: St. Mary's Closet Thrift Store

Tuesday, December 5

Matthew 21:12-22 *But when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that He did, and the children crying out in the temple and saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" they were indignant.* (v.15 NKJV)

It is interesting and disappointing that, over time, many of us loose our "childlike" faith. We are, at times, very well learned and great theologians. But children operate with their innocent hearts. They do not over think or over study. In Isaiah, God states, "My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts" and "My ways are far beyond anything you could imagine."

In the past when I would see a person raising their hands in worship, I would cringe. When I saw people laying hands and praying over another, I would feel uncomfortable. The older I get the more I appreciate humble hands raised in adoration to the Lord. I appreciate the power and love exemplified by people praying over another. Over the years as I have let many of my preconceptions about how the Lord operates go by the wayside. The Lord has shown His power and providence time and time again, in simply yielding my religious theories and hang-ups to His cross. Today, let's raise our hands to the Lord in praise.

Amos 3:1-11; Psalms 5, 6; 2 Peter 1:12-21

Anniversary: Jim and Cindy Ziembra

Tuesday's Calendar

7:00 a.m. AA "Hour of Power"
9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study
12:10 p.m. Holy Eucharist & Healing
5:30 p.m. Overeaters' Anonymous Meeting
7:30 p.m. NarcAnon "Just for Today"

Today's Ministry: Stephen Ministry

Wednesday, December 6

Psalms 119:1-24 *I have thought much about your words, and stored them in my heart so that they would hold me back from sin.* (v.11 TLB)

If only this could be my guiding light 24/7. Of course, I want to be redirected through God's words and allow the Holy Spirit to keep me from sinning. But, the truth of the matter is that in my heart is a huge rolodex of experiences that occurred before checking in with His Word. Let's just take A for anger, B for business, C for critical spirit, and on and on and on... My life is filled with sins that make me cringe. Yet, as I walk with through the Word with Him, I am learning, sometimes the hard way, to let Him connect the Scriptures with the mistakes, and work together with His Holy Spirit to prevent them from occurring over and over.

The enemy knows which areas to hit us the hardest, which leads to warfare. "Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God" (Ephesians 6:17). God's words are there to help us.

Amos 3:12—4:5; 2 Peter 3:1-10; Matthew 21:23-32

Birthdays: Cathy Bell, Barbara La Mirand, Barbara Taft, Jenny Martin, Gary Bach, Grace Mack

Anniversary: Francis and Heloise Wu

Wednesday's Calendar

6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study
7:00 a.m. AA "Hour of Power"
9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
10:30 a.m. Reunion Group
1:00 p.m. Mary's Library Movie
4:45 p.m. Mary's Kitchen
5:30 p.m. AA "Daily Reflections"
8:30 p.m. NarcAnon "Klean and Krazy"

Today's Ministry: Stewardship Committee

Thursday, December 7

2 Peter 3:11-18 *And remember, our Lord's patience gives people time to be saved. This is what our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom God gave him.* (v.15 NLT)

I myself am a living testimony of God's patience, that the Lord takes even the worst-case sinner into His kingdom. I use to play the hopeful procrastinator: "When I get older, I will tighten up, get back to church, work on church committees and get involved in the Lord's work." But Christ, in his boundless love, will wait us out and wear us down. His patient grace toward me won me over.

Have you ever had the idea that person is so "sinful" he/she will never respond to the Lord? The Lord Jesus proved his patience with me. Christ is at the door of everyone's heart right now knocking and waiting. "Look! I have been standing at the door, and I am constantly knocking. If anyone hears me calling him and opens the door, I will come in and fellowship with him and he with me" (Revelation 3:20). Jesus patiently knocks and knocks and pursues our hearts. Pray that people would welcome patient Jesus into their lives today.

Amos 4:6-13; Psalm 18:1-20; Matthew 21:33-46

Birthdays: Pat Camper, Maggie Carpenter, Ginny Nutt, Kyle Haynes

Anniversary: Steve and Jean Strickland

Thursday's Calendar

7:00 a.m. AA "Hour of Power"
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10:30 a.m. Altar Guild Meeting
12:30 p.m. Overeaters' Anonymous Meeting
5:30 p.m. ACA Men's Group
6:30 p.m. Life Group
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
7:00 p.m. AIAnon "Stepping Stones"

Today's Ministry: Sunday School