

not only encouraging, but also empowering. It reminds me that I can take risks, that I can try newer and harder things. It means that no matter how hard things get, there is nothing that can separate me from the love of God (Romans 8).

“From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help, and you listened to my cry.” Deep in the realm of the dead—that’s pretty far down. But even there, our calls for help are heard. Nowhere is too far. Let’s take comfort in that today, and throughout this new year.

Psalms 2, 110; Ephesians 6:10-20; John 11:17-27, 38-44

Birthdays: Barbara Lowell

Anniversary: Peter & Connie Ellison

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: Lay Readers

Saturday, January 6

Matthew 12:14-21 “*In his name the nations will put their hope.*” (v.21)

In this verse, adapted from in the original Isaiah 42:4, we are reminded once again of the universal hope that we can place in Jesus. At the end of the day, this is what faith is about—confidence and assurance in this hope despite the turbulence of life (Hebrews 11:1).

The original passage in Isaiah was written generations before Jesus would walk the earth, yet those words still play a part in how we understand and contextualize the importance of Jesus.

Part of the significance of Isaiah’s place and meaning in time came well after he was gone, beautifully illustrating this image of time once again. Let us reflect once more on how we are to use our precious time, and how to be still and know that He is God.

Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalms 46, 97; Revelation 21:22-27

Birthdays: Laura Raymond, Kristin Winter, Dwight Geiger, Frazier Geiger, Wyatt Zartman

Anniversaries: Dick & Sally Kurts, Doug & Stephanie Shaw

Saturday’s Calendar

7:00 a.m. AA “Hour of Power”
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: Life Groups

by David Wohlever Sanchez

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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 31, New Year’s Eve

1 Samuel 1:1-2, 7b-28 *There was a certain man from Ramathaim, a Zuphite from the hill country of Ephraim, whose name was Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite.* (v.1 NIV)

Sometimes when I read the genealogies of these passages, I reflect on the significance of the past, of those who came before us.

This specific family tree details the lineage of Samuel, who would grow up to be an incredible man with an unforgettable story. Each person in this genealogy bore some sort of influence, however small, over what would one day become Samuel.

This ushers me to two thoughts: the mystery of those who came before me, and perhaps the greater mystery of my impact on those who will come after me. Bearing this great responsibility in mind, I should strive to be the best version of myself, and ensure that I consider the implications of my actions on those who will come in the future.

On this last day of the year, let us reflect on that which has happened in the past, and consider how we are a part of what is to come.

Psalms 93, 96; Colossians 1:9-20; Luke 2:22-40

Birthdays: Tom Thurlow, Eileen Dayton

Sunday’s Calendar

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. Celebratory Coffee Hour in the Courtyard
11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Today’s Ministry: Facilities Committee

Monday, January 1, New Year's Day

Isaiah 62:1-5, 10-12 *For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness.* (v.1a ESV)

Our calling is not to be silent. We are not called to be quiet in the face of injustices. We are called to speak up for the oppressed, to speak out against evil, to rise up against the injustices that we find in this world.

The courage to speak up—sometimes it can be difficult to come by. This courage requires going beyond the status quo, rising above the complacency of routine. This means different things based on your sphere of influence, specific skills, and your calling, but there is one common thread: we are called to be active, not passive, in this fight for justice. This might not be an entirely comfortable life—but it is what is required of us, and it is the right thing to do.

So, on this New Year's Day, let us remember this responsibility we bear and pray for the strength to not be silent.

Psalm 103; Revelation 19:11-16; Matthew 1:18-25

Birthdays: James Gillis, Eileen Kerr, Gloria Dodd, Ted LaBedz, Duane Strang, Kalie Jones

Anniversaries: Barry & Debbie Allison, Ray & Sue Riddell

Monday's Calendar

Office Closed

7:00 a.m. AA "Hour of Power"

5:30 p.m. ACA Meeting (Adult Children of Alcoholics)

Today's Ministry: Finance Committee

Tuesday, January 2

John 6:1-14 *When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted."* (v.12 NIV)

I love this verse. Jesus had just turned five loaves of bread and two fish into a meal for five thousand people, but he still made sure to tell his disciples to not waste anything. There are a few noteworthy things happening here.

First, it's interesting (and a little funny, too) that Jesus had actually created a surplus of miracle food. This shows the magnitude of his powers, and the abundance of life that he brings. Second, it seems very clear to me that Jesus is reinforcing the idea of responsible stewardship here. This extra food shouldn't be wasted—it could be in the stomachs of more people who are hungry, and

Jesus takes this seriously. This shows me that I must be mindful of how I use my resources (especially what I have to spare), and not let it go to waste. Perhaps, from what I have been given, I could help those who do not have enough.

1 Kings 19:1-8; Psalm 34; Ephesians 4:1-16

Birthdays: Diane Kimes, Zachary Ormsby, Kate Faulkner

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

6:00 p.m. TCCNA Meeting

7:30 p.m. NarcAnon "Just for Today"

Today's Ministry: Flower Guild

Wednesday, January 3

1 Kings 19:9-18 *After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.* (v.12)

In this, perhaps one of the most famous Old Testament passages, I am reminded of the power, of the calm, of the peace that comes from being still and *knowing* that He is God (Psalm 46:10). In the tumultuous times of my life, I must remember to take a step back, let the noise fade into itself, and find the stillness and the quiet. In that place, I can remember my roots, and listen.

It's difficult to hear a distinct voice in the wind, or in the earthquake, or in the fire. But in the quiet, I can hear the soft voice beckoning me to be calm, trust, and remember the peace that passes all understanding that is available to each of us.

In this new year, let us take time to reflect, to find time for that quiet, and to listen.

Psalm 68; Ephesians 4:17-32; John 6:15-27

Birthdays: Jon Drtina, Margie Durham

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

4:45 p.m. Mary's Kitchen

5:30 p.m. AA "Daily Reflections"

7:00 p.m. Life Group

8:30 p.m. NarcAnon "Klean and Krazy"

Today's Ministry: Heritage Society

Thursday, January 4

Joshua 3:14-4:7 *"In the future, when your children ask you, 'What do these stones mean?' tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord."* (vv.6b-7a)

It's important to be reminded of things that happened in the past. Certain keepsakes can bring back memories of a wonderful moment, or perhaps of a sad day. Regardless, objects that remind of the past are powerful, and beckon us to reconsider where we have been, and where we are going.

A theme of sorts for the week has become clear to me: time, and our place in it. The beginning of this year is a perfect opportunity to take a step back and remember the past, consider what we ought to do in the present, and look forward to the future.

Psalm 85, 87; Ephesians 5:1-20; John 9:1-12, 35-38

Birthdays: Sandy Mitchell, Jim Gillis, Clayton Landry, Alexander Diaz

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. AlAnon "Stepping Stones"

Today's Ministry: Hospital Visitors

Friday, January 5

Jonah 2:2-9 *He said: "In my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me. From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help, and you listened to my cry."* (v.2)

This verse sums up the beauty of the knowledge that despite the fact that I am weak by myself, my call for help is heard. There is someone out there who is on my side. This knowledge is