

**Birthdays:** Rose Schneider, Lorraine Almond, Hope Jochem, John Burson

**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:** Mary's Kitchen

**Saturday, December 1**

Philippians 2:1-11 *Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.* (vv.1-2)

It's New Year's Eve for Christians. Tomorrow begins Advent—a period of reflection and preparation. A good time to make a few resolutions. As I read Paul's advice, I know I have some improvements to make. I am sure we all do, if we are honest about it.

It is also an occasion to look at the upcoming year and determine how your church can better fulfill the Great Commission in Matthew 28. (See yesterdays' devotional.) How will you help your fellow parishioners tell others about Christ, treat each other with tenderness and compassion, and be like-minded in learning and teaching the Good News?

In today's reading from Luke, Jesus wept over Jerusalem and then cleansed the temple from those who had other intents besides worship. I wonder how he'd react if he walked in on my congregation tomorrow? How about yours? It is something to ponder and pray about as we begin this holy season leading up to his birth.

Zechariah 14:12-21; Psalms 137, 144; Luke 19:41-48

**Birthdays:**

**Saturday's Calendar**  
7:00 a.m. AA "Hour of Power"  
9:00 a.m. Christmas Wreath Assembly  
9:30 a.m. AA Step Study for Women  
5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

**Today's Ministry:** Mary's Library and Bookstore

*By Julie B. Cosgrove*

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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**

Volume XVIII November 25 December 1, 2018 Number 47

**Sunday, November 25**

Zechariah 9:9-16 *They will be full like a bowl used for sprinkling the corners of the altar.* (v.15b NIV)

Have you ever been sprinkled with an aspergillum? It is a wand filled with holy water that the bishop or priest shakes to bless something such as an altar, a new car, people... Perhaps you dip your finger into the fonts upon entering the church and make the sign of the cross over your chest. Both symbolize being washed of your sins. Just like our clothes and our bodies, our souls need regular washing.

But how can we be like the bowl used for sprinkling the altar? We are called to be vessels in which the Holy Spirit lives. If we are "full of ourselves" there doesn't leave much room for him, does it? But when we empty ourselves and are open to being filled by the Living Water, we become a blessing to others, and to God. Having been cleansed of our sins, we can then lead others to be washed and blessed as well.

Psalms 118; 1 Peter 3:13-22; Matthew 21:1-13

**Birthday:** Lorrie Markarian

**Anniversaries:** Rev. Christian & Anastasia Anderson, Dave & Evey Bassion

**Sunday's Calender**  
7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I  
9:00 a.m. Contemporary Family Worship Service  
9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II (Youth)  
Coffee Hour - Courtyard after 9:00 A.M. Services  
10:15 a.m. Stephen Leaders Meetings  
11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
6:00 p.m. Youth Group

**Today's Ministry:** Flower Guild

**Monday, November 26**

Psalms 106:1-18 *But they soon forgot what he had done and did not wait for his plan to unfold.* (v.13)

Tired of turkey leftovers yet?

The Hebrew people, months after being miraculously rescued at the Red Sea and freed from slavery, now whined because they didn't have food and drink in the desert. Surrounded by herds of goats, sheep, and a few cattle, how could they think that?

I can't be too down on the Hebrews, can you? I think we have all had times when we didn't wait for God's plans to unfold. He didn't meet our timetable, or our expectations. Sure, He'd been there for us in the past and proved His timing is perfect, but that was then. This is now.

At times, I've been so caught up in my own angst over a situation that I failed to see the blessings right in front of me. Just as the Hebrews did. Oh, me of little faith.

Lord, nudge me to praise You in each situation and to count my blessings as I wait on You to act so You don't have to discipline me as you did Your people in the wilderness.

Zechariah 10:1-12; Galatians 6:1-10; Luke 18:15-30

**Birthdays:** Pat Graham, Samuel Gallo

#### Monday's Calendar

7:00 a.m. AA "Hour of Power"  
5:30 p.m. ACA Families

**Today's Ministry:** Heritage Society

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#### Tuesday, November 27

1 Corinthians 3:10-23 *By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care.* (v.10)

I was tired. I'd been president of our diocesan churchwomen's cabinet for four years, overseeing women in over four dozen congregations. One day, while driving to work I noticed a flock of geese flying in the typical V formation. I saw the lead goose fall back and squeeze in between two others near the front. Immediately, one of the other geese took over as lead. I knew God told me to fall back in line, but stay close enough to guide the new leader, who by the way, is doing an amazing job. It gave me time to do what God then called me to do.

When Moses became overwhelmed, his father-in-law, Jethro, advised him to divvy up the duties (Exodus 18:17-22). In Acts 6, when the apostles felt the same way, they chose sub leaders. God will raise up whom He has equipped to serve. But sometimes, that means we, who have been serving for a long time, need to stand aside. How can we take on a new adventure when our hands are clutching on the old?

Zechariah 11:4-17; Psalms 120, 121, 122, 123; Luke 18:31-43

**Birthdays:** Diane Putnam, Sarah Ralicki, Turner Lavelle

#### Tuesday's Calendar

7:00 a.m. AA "Hour of Power"  
12:10 p.m. Holy Eucharist & Healing  
2:00 p.m. Stewardship Meeting  
6:00 p.m. Overeaters' Anonymous  
6:30 p.m. Vestry Meeting

**Today's Ministry:** Hospital Visitors

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#### Wednesday, November 28

Luke 19:1-10 *He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd.* (v.3)

I am short, so I get Zacchaeus. I recall one time being in a crowd of kneecaps. Sounds swirled around me, but I had no idea what was happening. Then my dad lifted me up to perch on his shoulders. Suddenly I could see the parade. What a difference.

Zacchaeus is bolder than I often am. He took the initiative to get a better view. He climbed a tree to seek a glimpse of Jesus. There have been times when I have not been able to look beyond my own circumstances. Tension crowds in, blocking my view of God's goodness and mercy in my life. Then the Shepherd comes, and lifts this little lost sheep onto his shoulders. He holds on to me tightly, lets me glimpse at what "the big picture" is, and waits as I gawk in awe.

The world is a much better place when seen from the viewpoint of being in the arms of the Savior.

Zechariah 12:1-10; Psalm 119:145-176; Ephesians 1:3-14

**Birthdays:** Monica Maxwell, Madison Arnold, Charlotte Kelley

**Anniversary:** Frank & Nancy Larsen

#### 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  
10:00 a.m. Adult Life Group  
11:00 a.m. Stephen Ministry Care  
4:45 p.m. Mary's Kitchen  
5:30 p.m. AA "Daily Reflections"  
6:00 p.m. Life Groups

**Today's Ministry:** Lay Readers

#### Thursday, November 29

Zechariah 13:1-9 *In the whole land," declares the LORD, "two-thirds will be struck down and perish; yet one-third will be left in it. This third I will put into the fire; I will refine them like silver and test them like gold.* (vv.8-9)

So many people are claiming we are in the end times. Perhaps. All the signs are there. Natural disasters, people turning from God and engaging in lustful living are Biblically predicted. Have things truly changed? Could it be we've been in the end times for two millennia? Not to sound flippant, but only God knows.

Paul wrote to the Thessalonians that the Day of the Lord would come like a thief in the night (1 Thessalonians 5:1-2). In Matthew 25, Jesus told the parable of the bridesmaids always being ready for the bridegroom to come. In the ancient world, once a girl was betrothed the groom could come to claim her at any time, be it days or years. Her job was to wait and prepare. So it is with us.

Whether Jesus comes tomorrow or a hundred years from now, it is not our call. It lies with God, as it should. In the meantime, we have our assignment—go tell the world about Jesus and baptize new believers (Matthew 28:20).

Psalms 131, 132, 133; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 19:11-27

**Birthdays:** Dave Stevenson, Lenore Hubbard

**Anniversary:** Jim & Judy Chisholm

#### Thursday's Calendar

7:00 a.m. AA "Hour of Power"  
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
5:30 p.m. ACA Men's Group  
6:30 p.m. Choir  
7:00 p.m. AI-Anon "Stepping Stones"

**Today's Ministry:** Life Groups

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#### Friday, November 30

Luke 19:28-40 *Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them.* (v.32)

I took on a new task, one to which I felt fairly confident God had called me. However, I didn't know how I would accomplish it. New to the city, we joined a mission church. The priest came up to me on the third Sunday after we'd joined to tell me God told him I should form and lead the outreach committee. Me? I had just barely found the grocery store! But I prayed on it, reluctantly said yes, and told God, "Okay, you're going to have to lead me and show me what to do." He did, each step of the way. All I had to do was follow directions.

Sometimes God asks us to do something we just don't understand. The old adage, "Ours is not to question why, ours is to do or die," comes to mind. When we die to our own agenda and follow God's instead, He will lay everything out for us.

What colt has He asked you to go find, untie, and bring for Him to use to His glory?

Zechariah 14:1-11; Psalms 140, 142; Romans 15:7-13