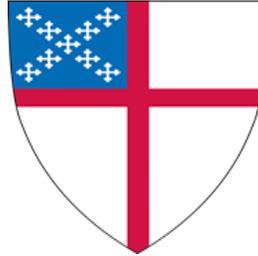




Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Prayer List & Newsletter



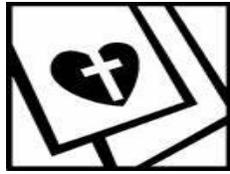
September 13, 2020

LESSONS FOR 15th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

1. Exodus 14: 19-31
2. Psalm 103: 1-13
3. Romans 14: 1-12
4. Matthew 18: 21-35



Watch Fr. Brian Barry on Sunday on our website www.holytrinityepiscopalvs.org and on Facebook for our virtual Sunday service. Also watch him every morning at 7:00am for morning prayer (or watch during the day when you can)



FROM THE RECTOR **In Charge**

To the Saints at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Valley Stream: Grace and Peace to you from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I want to first offer my thanks for the warm welcome my wife, daughter, and I have received since I started my term as your new Priest in Charge. The Vestry and the Wardens in particular have been very welcoming. I recognize the difficulty we all face in getting to know each other due to the realities of Covid-19, but please be assured that I will work to get to know each and every one of you over the days, weeks, months, and years ahead. Though we are scattered, we are one Body in Jesus Christ our Lord, bound by ties of affection, our common Baptism, and the Holy Spirit. Whether or not we are physically together at this time is irrelevant, so long as we remember we are united by One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism, and One Mission.

Before I launch into my view of my calling as your priest, I would like to take a moment to let you know a little bit about me. I was born and raised in South Shore Nassau County, spending most of my life in Bellmore, NY. I am quite familiar with Valley Stream; Inatome is one of my favorite Hibachi Restaurants (and you have no idea how happy I am to be living within walking distance). When I began to discern my calling as a priest, our Bishop sent me away to South Dakota for a year, where I served as an intern for the Episcopal Mission to the Standing Rock Lakota Sioux Reservation. It was the most formative year of my life, and you will likely hear more about it in the future. After that, I went to seminary at Berkeley Divinity School at Yale. I graduated in May 2016, married my wife Holly in June 2016, started work as a Deacon at St. Ann's in July of 2016, and was ordained to the Priesthood in September 2016 (that was a very eventful year). I served as the Curate of St. Ann's in Sayville under 2 different rectors for the past 4 years. I started to pursue a Masters in Sacred Theology (STM) at General Theological Seminary in September 2019, and my daughter Kaitlyn was born in December of 2019. I am still working on my STM, to be completed in May of 2021, in preparation for pursuing a PhD in Theology. As I am sure you have gathered, my wife and I keep busy. My wife is an attorney for New York City, and she just returned to work after her maternity leave, so I do beg your patience during this transition, as she has returned to work at the same time I have started my new call at Holy Trinity. This is on top of pursuing my STM and the both of us trying to figure out the realities of childcare during a pandemic.

That was either too much or too little information. In terms of how I plan on answering my call to be your priest, you already have some idea based on my sermon from September 6th (available on Holy Trinity's website). But, here are a few things that I am currently working on, or things I plan on working on in the near future:

1. Receiving Christ: As a parish, we will have to answer Jesus' question: "Who do you say that I am?" (Matthew 16:15). The Good News that the Church has to offer the world is that of welcome into the family of Jesus Christ (and what a Gift we have to offer!), and as a parish it is my hope that we first accept the gift of Jesus Christ ourselves, so we can offer Him to the world.
2. Spirituality: it is my hope that we can grow together as a parish in our spiritual lives. Growth in the Spirit, and in our Spiritual Gifts, will by necessity have to precede any numerical growth.
3. Prayer: To that end, I am already leading a Morning Prayer service, Monday-Friday at 7am. I created an online facebook chapel at the beginning of the pandemic, and am joined by people from all over the Island (even all over the country!) every weekday for prayer. You do not need to have a facebook account to take part in the services, unless you wish to comment. Further, the service is recorded, so you don't need to join us live as the service will continue to be available. **You can join us here:** <https://www.facebook.com/ChapelHolyFamily>
4. In-Person Worship: It is my goal to have us meeting again, as a parish, for in-person worship soon. I will not be giving out any dates currently, because quite frankly this will be a process that could take some time. For those who are concerned about returning to in-person worship (particularly those who are at greater risk because of Covid-19), please be assured that we will also continue making services available online.
5. Getting to know you: Even when we return to in-person worship, it will be a while before we can have a coffee hour, or regular in-person social activities. To that end, my wife Holly and I are working on some creative ways to get to meet each and every one of you. More news to follow.
6. Moving in: We are still in Sayville and waiting on the work to be finished at the rectory. So moving in has to happen before we can do much of anything.
7. Christian Formation: My calling as a priest is geared toward education and formation. I study so much because I enjoy teaching and learning. I will be working on discipleship classes, scripture classes, and other classes in the months and weeks ahead. I do believe that Desmond and Carl are already leading a bible study on Romans, so I encourage you to join them if you haven't done so.

Finally, please know that you can reach me at any time at my new email address:

priestholytrinityvs@gmail.com

I think that is enough for now. My wife and I look forward to being a part of the community of faith that is Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Valley Stream, and I personally look forward to discerning our call as a parish together in the days, weeks, months and years ahead.

Yours in Christ, Fr. Brian



Exodus 14:19-31

19 Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, 20 coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long.

21 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the Lord drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, 22 and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

23 The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. 24 During the last watch of the night the Lord looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. 25 He jammed[a] the wheels of their chariots so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, "Let's get away from the Israelites! The Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."

26 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen." 27 Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing toward[b] it, and the Lord swept them into the sea. 28 The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen—the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived.

29 But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. 30 That day the Lord saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. 31 And when the Israelites saw the mighty hand of the Lord displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the Lord and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.

Psalm 103:1-13

Psalm 103 Of David.

1 Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

2 Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits—

3 who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,

4 who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion,

5 who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

6 The Lord works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed.

7 He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel:

8 The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.

9 He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever;

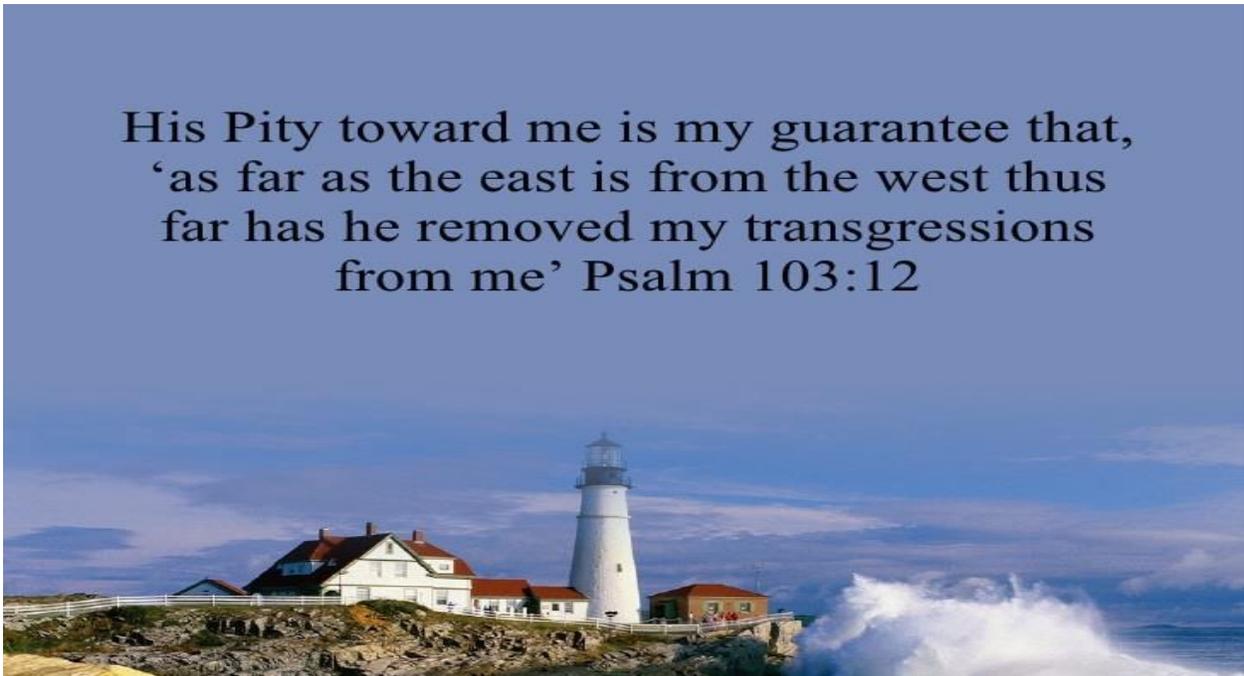
10 he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.

11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him;

12 as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

13 As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him;

His Pity toward me is my guarantee that,
'as far as the east is from the west thus
far has he removed my transgressions
from me' Psalm 103:12



Romans 14:1-12

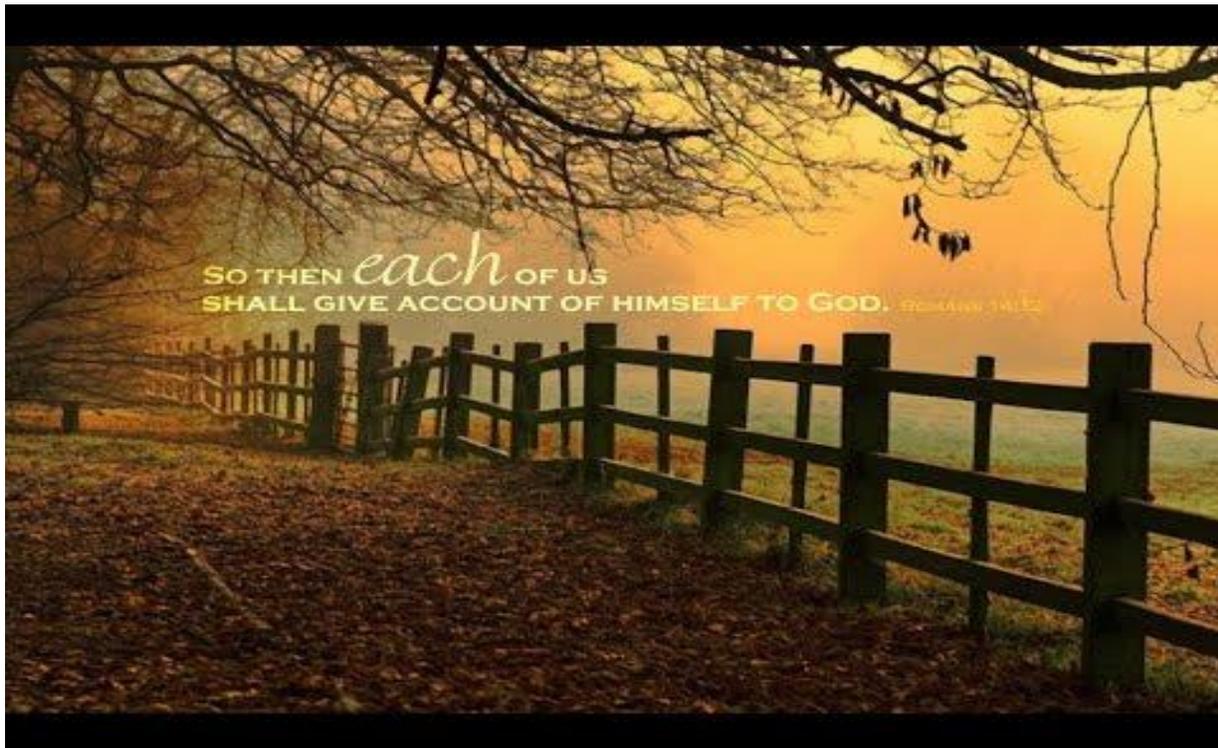
The Weak and the Strong

14 Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. 2 One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. 3 The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. 4 Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

5 One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. 6 Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. 7 For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. 8 If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. 9 For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.

10 You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister[a]? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. 11 It is written:

"As surely as I live," says the Lord, "every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God." [b] 12 So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

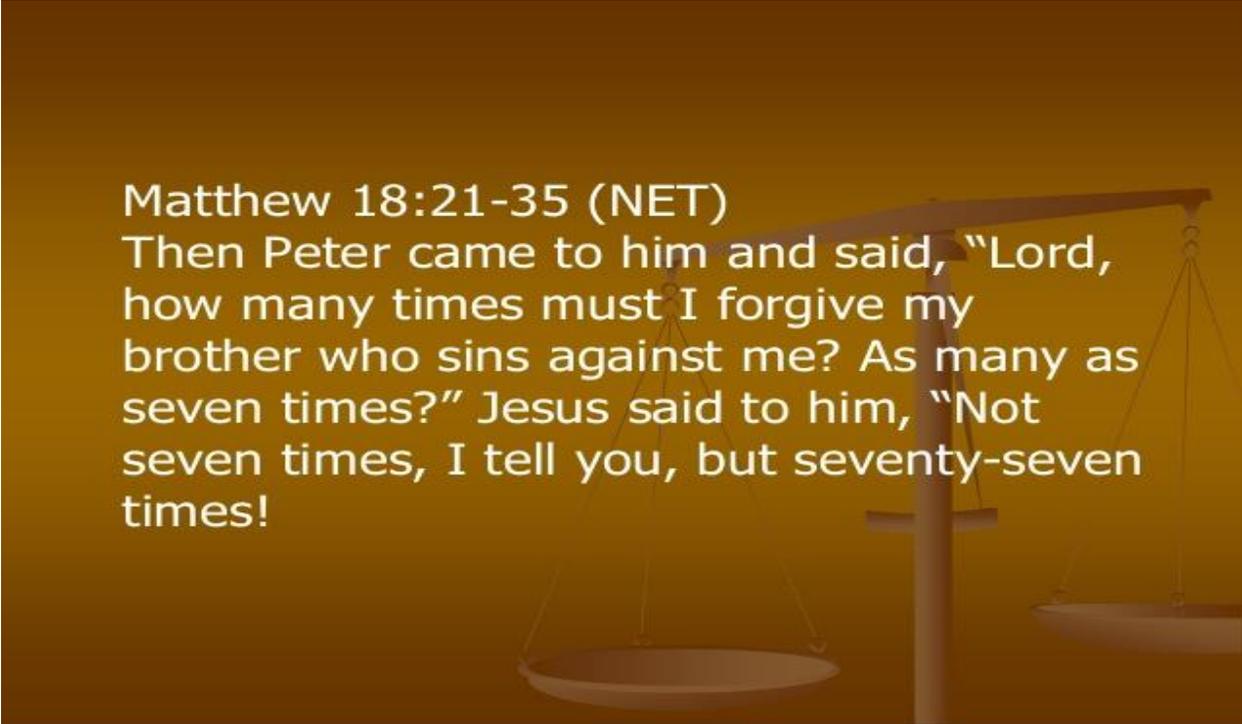


Matthew 18:21-35 The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

21 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" 22 Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.[a] 23 "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. 24 As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold[b] was brought to him. 25 Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

26 "At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' 27 The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. 28 "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins.[c] He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. 29 "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.' 30 "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. 31 When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

32 "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. 33 Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' 34 In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. 35 "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

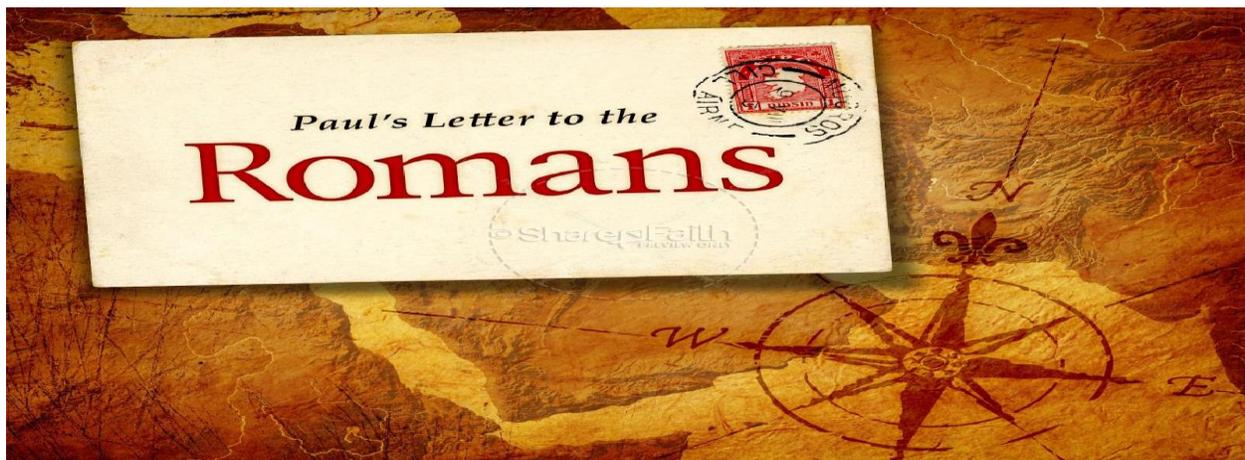


Matthew 18:21-35 (NET)
Then Peter came to him and said, "Lord, how many times must I forgive my brother who sins against me? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, I tell you, but seventy-seven times!"

COME JOIN OUR
BIBLE

Study

We are having a Zoom Bible study for every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. We are going to start with the first chapter of Paul's Letter to the Romans next week. Please contact Carl Bucking or Desmond Foster for the Zoom link if interested.



Desmond Foster & Carl Bucking are hosting a virtual Saturday evening prayer service every 2nd Saturday of the month with start time Of 6 p.m. on Zoom. Please contact them for link if interested. You can email them at CJBucking@hotmail.com and desmond.foster@ymailcom if interested.

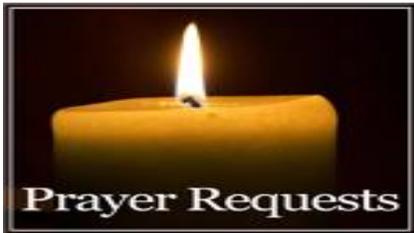
Parish Family & Friends Prayer List

**George & Marilyn Bacon Karen & Victor Sarah, Selina
Marsha Baldwin
Carl Bucking Scott Bucking
Mary Cranmore
Theresa Dowd John Dowd
Desmond Foster Anthony
Carmen Grant
Flo Hayward Nicole, Adam & Justin
Edwin Hilbrandt
Ellen James Hillman Jennifer, Catherine & Louie, Oliver
Anne Hogan
James Ifill
Bob Imbriani Robert & Samantha, Dylan, Kate, Reid
Doreen Imbriani Brian & Heather, Violet, Noah
Debra Jacobs, Diane Jacobs, Evelyn Jacobs
Anthony & Ngozi Kanu Chudi, Ike, Uzo
Paul & Susan Kaszubski John, Jaclyn
Lizette Kendrick Timia Moore
Dorothy McGlynn
Carol & Donald Russer David & Family, Karen Russer
Betty Sabbatini Beth & Family, Andrea Sabbatini,
Joann Schneiderman Cheryl Lesley, Robert & Gabriella Lesley Robbie
Amy & Lisa, William, Shane, Corey Schmidlin
Lynn Shortell Billy Gun
Annmarie & Randy Thomson Joshua, Logan
Renee Tolliver
Paul Taylor
Arlene Vrede
Lorraine & Everest Campbell Andrew Ryan Shawn
Susan & Michael Breidenbach Michael, Christopher, Matthew
Joyce & Hugh Butler Kim, Craig Paul, Grace, Julie, Heather, Thomas, Joanne, Sam
Beth & Chris Lent Zander, Tina
Oddie & Karla McLaughlin Cody, Shyla
Margaret Moorhead
Ifeoma & Godwin Onyeikl Chi Chi, Collins, Christian, Envi, Esther & Nwamaka
Robert & Emily Ring
Lexia & Shain Reece Shannon, Samara
Desiree Giddings
Ola Akinyemi, John Akinyemi, Toyin Akinyemi
Yolanda Ochiobi
Megan & Jimmy Dascoli
Renee Giddings
FR. Brian Barry, wife Holly and daughter Kaitlyn**

Healing Prayer

Heavenly Father, we pray that You will lay your healing Hands upon all those who are sick. We beg You to have compassion on all those who are suffering so that they may be delivered from their pitiful circumstances.

*In Jesus, we pray.
Amen.*



Please keep me in your prayers on Friday September 18th. I don't usually do this but I am nervous especially with Covid19 still around. I am having medial meniscus surgery in both knees because I can't walk/stand without difficulty and I can't wait any longer. Thank you for your prayers. – Debbie



"help needed" We need someone tall to help get the coverings off the crosses, especially the large hanging cross. Please contact Evelyn Jacobs if you can help us get the church ready.

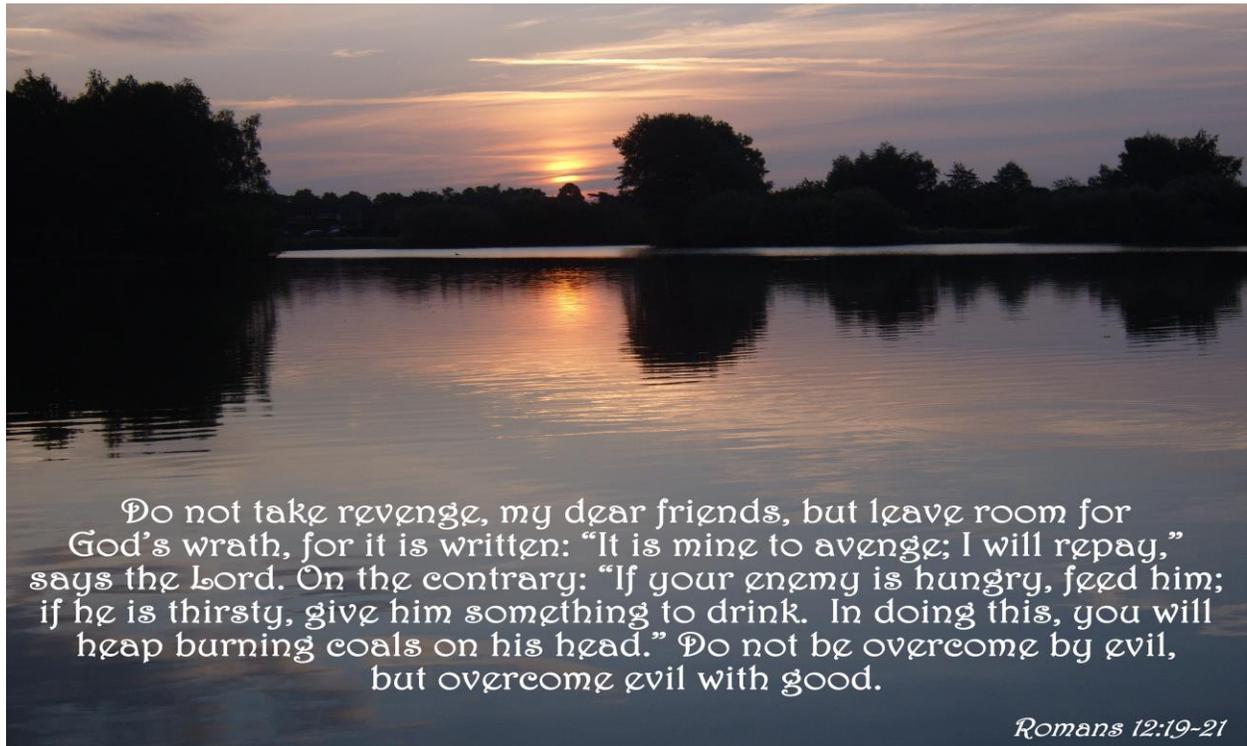


THE AFTERMATH OF 9/11: THE LONG PATH TOWARDS HEALING

“The fundamentalist believes that we believe in nothing. In his world view, he has absolute certainties, while we are sunk in sybaritic indulgences. To prove him wrong, we must agree on what matters: kissing in public places, bacon sandwiches, disagreement, cutting edge fashion, literature, generosity, water, a more equitable distribution of the world's resources, movies, music, freedom of thought, beauty, love. These will be our weapons, not by making war, but by the unafraid way we choose to live we shall defeat them.” Salman Rushdie (born 1947).

At 8.46 a.m. on the clear, beautiful morning of Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2001, American Airlines Flight # 11 from Boston's Logan Airport crashed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center in lower Manhattan, marking the first of the more than 2700 souls whose lives were brutally ended, on the cusp of autumn in New York. The world as we knew and understood it, was changed forever. In the nearly two decades since that monumental tragedy, the suffering of family, friends and loved ones, both of those who passed that day and of first responders who later succumbed to the toxic hazards of Ground Zero, the suffering has been never ending and almost unfathomable. Life indeed does go on, but the pain has never really subsided. Another generation has come of age as the first fifth of the new century stares back at us in the rear view mirror.

If we are honest, it is difficult not to lapse into bitterness and resentment over the state of a world in which unambiguous evil can flourish in the presence of a loving and benevolent God who is the antithesis of such moral depravity. The Faustian bargain of human free will, the fallout of humanity's fall from grace due to the transgression of Eden, reminds us bitterly that the travails of the flesh defines our mortality inseparably from the intrusion of pain and sorrow. But it is through our faith in the redemptive power of the Cross, the saving grace of Christ crucified and the eternal hope of the Resurrection, that liberates us from bondage to the prison of hatred. That much is made clear in this pronouncement from Romans 12: 19-21:



“Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord. To the contrary, if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by doing so, you will heap burning coals on his head. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

With the ugly spectre of racial and ethnic prejudice dominating our domestic social discourse over the past few years, it has never been more important than now to stand up against those people and institutions which fan the flames of division and intolerance. We may not always like everyone we encounter in our lives, but we are still ethically called to pursue the path of peaceful coexistence wherever and whenever possible. Contention and dissent, given the egotistical imperative of human nature, will probably never disappear from our midst. But our inherent flaws make the plea from Isaiah 2:4 all the more powerful and compelling:

“He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.”

This statue has been placed outside the UN building in New York.



The following quote from the Bible was the inspiration for this statue.

'They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore'

Isaiah 2:4



All constructive change which leads to peace and enlightenment must start from within, as Gandhi famously recognized. But the mortal sin of racial supremacy, and the irrational fear of the “other”, is still very much with us. Witness the negative public reaction to the NFL players' demonstration of solidarity this past Thursday evening in Kansas City, Missouri, and the with audible hostility coming from both live spectators and online witnesses alike. Congress and state legislatures can pass anti-racism laws until Kingdom come, but authentic and lasting progress will never be attained unless the heart is changed. Psalm.10: 17-18 makes that clear enough:

“O Lord, you hear the desire of the afflicted; you will strengthen their heart; you will incline your ear to do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed, so that man who is of the earth may strike terror no more.”

With continual prayer and mindful reflection, we dare to hope that the day may come when the call for equity and justice will not excite the hostile anxiety that is now firmly woven into the disconsolate fabric of our current lives. God's Peace, Carl Buckingham September 2020