



Weekly Announcements August 18, 2021

*Life is short.
We don't have much time to gladden the hearts of those who walk this way with us.
So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind.*

Henri-Frédéric Amiel



Dear friends in Christ,

I just couldn't bring myself to preach this past Sunday afternoon. It's not as if I was unprepared. You see, I had worked up a short meditation on the gospel reading for the 5:00 p.m. Evening Prayer service and yet, when I clicked the Zoom link and was about to join the group, I couldn't muster the words to say anything.

I couldn't talk about Jesus and a story about something that happened 2,000 years ago - or say anything at all for that matter - because of the day's news coming out of Afghanistan, Haiti, and hospitals at home and throughout our country. I was having difficulty, to use the old preaching image, speaking God's truth while holding the newspaper in one hand and the Bible in the other. How do we hold the stories of each in our hands and find God's news?

While watching news footage of innocent people caught between collapsed buildings and collapsing governments, and reading the latest on the Delta surge, I could only ask "Where is God?" I was tempted to hunker down on the couch and isolate myself from others, behavior that has not served me well in the past. Perhaps you know the feeling? Faced with conflict - be it within ourselves, with others, or from the world - we may be tempted to throw up our hands, declare nothing can be done, and withdraw from others.

I did muddle through an impromptu meditation, which was laced with some frustration about the suffering of so many innocent people and, joining the psalmist, I repeated a portion of the psalm assigned for that night's service: "the eyes of all look to you [Lord] ..." (Psalm 145:15). Given my mood, it was more of a reminder to God that we are all down here looking for answers.

At the end of the service, when folks unmute themselves and join us for a virtual chat, a parishioner named my struggle in preaching on an ancient, prescribed text in the very moments of chaos and conflict: I was grieving. Soon, others spoke up and said they too were grieving and at a loss for words.

I could not solve the crisis in Afghanistan or Haiti, but in those few minutes of Evening Prayer, in such great company of God's faithful people, it was enough for us to be together and share our sorrow with one another. It was enough, if even for just a few minutes.

The parishioner who named my grief - and the grieving we were all just beginning - told us that he felt like brushing off Evening Prayer. That the moment seemed to big for yet another Zoom meeting. Instead, he decided at the last minute, and somewhat reluctantly, to join us - and it made all the difference in the world for him. In that moment. Just in that moment. To be with friends. To be church.

There are many times when conflict, uncertainty, or just plain old boredom can feel overwhelming, and isolating or "doing it on our own" feels more comfortable. It's in these moments when I feel most vulnerable that I really need you. Each and every one of you. Seeing you and hearing from you helps me more than you know. And I hope to be that for you. It's why Jesus built God's kingdom around a group of ordinary people - like you and me!

We are not in this alone. I hope to see you soon in church - be it in-person or by Zoom!

Yours in Christ,

A Gift to Honor Roy Rosenthal's Ministry

There is still time to make a donation to Roy's "purse" if you have not had the time to mail or drop off your donation in the church office; though we will present a check to him this Sunday, August 22nd in the 10:30 AM service, we will collect any donations received after the 22nd and mail to Roy at a later date. Please make your check payable to St. James and marked Roy Rosenthal in the *Memo* section. Thank you!

On the Row

*Bringing Darkness into Light:
Sharing Stories of Redemption from Men
on Arkansas' Death Row*

**September 1, 2021
6:30 PM**



St. James will host this 1 hour and 10 minute film, followed by a live Q&A period with an inmate on Arkansas' death row. This presentation, shown via a Zoom webinar platform, will also be offered to the diocese and is facilitated by Kathy McGregor, Project Director for [The Prison Story Project](#).

Registration is required by [clicking here](#).

The webinar showing is free thanks to funding from [Episcopal Evangelism Society](#)



**August 22nd
In-person Eucharist
@ 10:30AM
Childcare is provided!**

[Click here for this Sunday's readings \(Track 2\)](#)

**August 22nd
Evening Prayer
Online @ 5:00 PM**

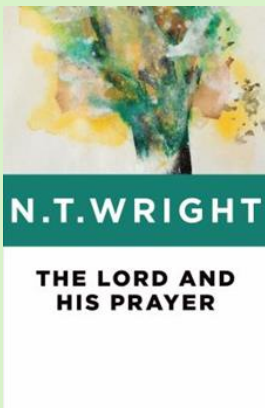
Join us by clicking this Zoom link:
[Evening Prayer](#)

Meeting ID: 863 4898 4077

Passcode: 1620



[Click here for the order of service & readings.](#)



Save the Dates!

Wednesday Nights in September

September 8th, 15th, 22nd, & 29th
@ 6:30 PM via Zoom

The Lord and His Prayer
by N.T. Wright

Join Fr. Tim for a conversation and refreshing look at these well-known words we pray each Sunday during the Eucharist or at other significant moments in our lives. We will talk about the images Jesus used from the first century world around him to describe a way for his disciples to talk even today in intimate conversations with God.

N. T. Wright, one of the most highly respected biblical scholars in the world today, is research professor emeritus of New Testament and early Christianity at the University of St. Andrews and senior research fellow at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford. He is the author, editor, or contributor of over eighty books and/or volumes, including *Simply Christian*, *Surprised by Hope*, *Paul and the Faithfulness of God*, and *The New Testament in Its World*.

Knitting/Crochet Group

**Second Saturdays
10:30 AM to Noon in the Youth Building**



The Episcopalian Slip-knots take up their knitting needles and crochet hooks again to create scarves, hats, and other warm fuzzies to donate to the Homeless Coalition around the corner, to disburse to our neighbors in need in the wintertime. **The group meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month from 10:00 AM to Noon in the Youth Building**, where you can sit at a safe distance and still enjoy fellowship! **Bring a mask and your own supplies.** Contact Sara Fuhrer at 985-237-9848 for more information.

Parish Prayer List

Please keep these members of our community in your prayers:

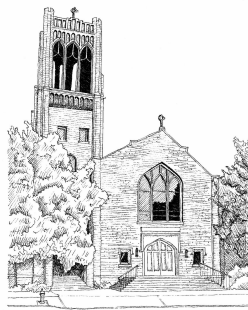
Mattie Dean McNaughton, Canon John Bedingfield, Sophia (Frey) Bradford, Kristie Fresh, Julie Niven, Randal Skinner, Sawyer, Dee Drell, C. A. Zachary, John, Bernard Parker, James Sinclair, Johnnie Hart, Emily, Taylor Thompson, Todd Fuller, Jane Y. Harris, Chase Barnfield, Kip Hogue, Kyle, James Jay Watts, Janet & Carl Ahrens, Beth Virden, Glenn Guillory, Edna Schoolcraft, Karen Donahue, Jimmy Hurt, Charlotte Thrift, Mesta Bain, Margaret Broussard, Allie Bunyog, Dean M. Tyree, Linda & John Bazer, Ron Kingston, Cecile Brunson, Felicia, Rita Clancey, Barry Mercer, Annie, Jackie Jeanne, Jaclyn Cutrone, Dietrich DeBoer, Beverly Butler, Bruce Gremillion, Murel Trimble, Emily, Betty Anne Close, Bill Leibke, Sarah, Jackie Moody, Sarah, Wayne and Barbara Moorehead, Pat Carter, Dr. Jack Jackson, Richard Norem, Kevin Hooter, Warren Paul, Cindy Smith, Jane Tyson, Gerard, and Mehre Hajighassem.

For those in the military:

Samuel Hayes, Steven Rougeau, Steven Brevelle, Franklin Watson, Kyle Jordan, Gill Tatman-Tyree, Donal McCarthy, Michael Geiger, Erskine Cook, Jr., Steven P. Lemoine, Patrick Downs, and Chris Babcock.

For those celebrating birthdays in August (day):

Suzie Randow (3), Becky Warren (4), Sonny Trammell (7), Linda Culpepper (8), Larry Menache (8), Suzanne Alexandrer (11), Catherine Davidson (12), Tish Fresh (12), David Lind (13), Claire Callis (14), Murel Trimble (14), Betty Ingrish (15), Scott Yeager (15), Gene Sterling (19), Paton Downs (21), Faye Flanagan (21), MacKenzie Yeager (22), Jameson Milliner (23), Delores Brewer (24), Nancy Flournoy (25), Alice Malone (27), Sara Davidson (28), Susan Frey (28).



Visit our
Website

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