



The Shepherd's Voice

October 15, 2013

By Fr. Joe Rees

'Pray—Don't Lose Heart'

“Now Jesus was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart, saying, **“In a certain city there was a judge who did not fear God and did not respect man. There was a poor widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, ‘give me justice against my adversary.’ For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, ‘Though I neither fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.”**” Luke 18: 1-5.

Jesus was teaching His disciples, and us, that we should not lose heart in praying for whatever is that persistent need for our lives. In this case she wanted justice. God is a God of justice and is saying to her in her poverty, “I hear you, and will respond.” It is a parable of course and yet the teaching is that we need to be persistent in our prayer for whatever is our deep, powerfully moving need. If even an ungodly judge will answer eventually, surely a loving God will answer with care and timeliness for those who press into His loving heart. Key: He loves us. We are the recipients of His blessings, His providence, His mercy and grace. He cares about you. He hears every one of your prayers, so pray, and don't give up. “Will He delay long over you?”(v.7) No, He will listen and respond. Sometimes the answers are “yes, no, maybe, or not yet”. But, He always answers!

In keeping a prayer before our Lord we keep a vital communication going that is never wasted or spent without return. The good return to us is the blessing of His Presence and His voice that communicates His love to us. Sometimes God wants to multiply the loaves through our prayers by including others in the answer. Multiple benefits often occur. We have been praying for more people to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, and

then come to church. We've had people do this. When we pray with God's Kingdom advancement in mind, we'll see greater benefits. If it's just a prayer for some material thing to make us enjoy life more, I know that the Lord has other purposes for using us for His glory than those 'things'.

We are praying therefore for His Kingdom initiatives. One of which is the “My Hope America” outreach soon to happen in the beginning of November. We've prayed for “Matthews” to come forward to facilitate that outreach through the home environment. Some have done that, but there could be more, so keep praying. **Next Wednesday night, Oct. 23rd at 7:00PM** we will have a “Matthews” meeting to concentrate on learning our three minute testimony given after viewing the video. Calling all “Matthews”...come and join us for this important meeting in which part of it will be devoted to prayer together for those you are going to invite. A second similar session will be given on **Oct. 27th**, Sunday, at noon (grab a lunch to eat while we're talking and praying). We need to be consistent before the Lord in our prayers that He would lead us to invite those particular persons that He's preparing to receive the Gospel and make a decision for Christ. Keep on praying and believing because these are the very prayers He's vitally interested in to answer with His favor. He so desires that we would pray for our neighbors and friends who do not know the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Keep on praying and do not lose heart! And that includes all your deepest needs for your life and those you love.

Praying that the Lord builds up His Kingdom on earth as it is in Heaven with this venture of 'My Hope America'!

Faithfully believing in the power of prayer,

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Joe

Sunday Servers this week...

October 20, 2013	Proper 24	8:30 a.m. Service	10:15 a.m. Service
First Reader	Genesis 32:3-30	Jackie Lansing	Jim Livingston
Psalm Reader	Psalm 121	Myrna Lipnicke	Pat Richardson
Second Reader	2 Timothy 3:14-4:5	John Lipnicke	Anna Teixeira
Intercessor		Josiah Gilman	Frances Slaughter
Lay Euch. Ministers		John & Myrna Lipnicke	Carolyn Blumberg, Judy Gillease
Acolytes		Josiah Gilman	Frances S (C); Damon W (T1); Dasiahmarie (T2)
Welcomers		Myrna Lipnicke	Margaret Olson, Jeanne Shannon, Myrna Lipnicke
Ushers		David Green, Jackie Lansing	JR Fox, Ray Seibold, Jim Livingston
Vestry Person of Day	Jane Rost		
Healing Ministers		Jan Simon, Thor Strom	Ann Fox, Donna Sandner
Announcer		Myrna Lipnicke	JR Fox

New Bible Study beginning on Tuesday, October 15th.

Fr. Joe will be teaching on the first three chapters of the Revelation to St. John on successive Tuesday evenings starting Oct. 15th at 7:00pm. As the Scripture says, "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." We'll take a look at what was said for the churches of Jesus Christ then and now. We'll ask ourselves the question, "Are we hot or cold?" Lively discussion will follow with some practical ways Grace members can employ. Come for this six week series and grow in the Spirit.

Learn to run the sound board!

Paul Noble, our sound guy, will be gone during the Christmas season. We are looking for a person from each service to volunteer to run the board for the services during that time. Contact the Church Office.

It's time to start collecting small gifts for the Good Samaritan Shoebox Christmas project. More information available soon.

Do you take pictures at church events? We would love to have you send them to the church office via email if possible so we can include them in our newsletter and in our year end review video.

It's almost Angel Tree time again! On Sunday, November 3rd, the names of children whose parent(s) are incarcerated will be available for you to buy gifts for them. Your gift may be the only one these children may get at Christmas.

Sunday at Grace

7:30 a.m. Spoken Service
8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist with choir
9:30 a.m. Coffee and fellowship
10:00 a.m. Nursery opens
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist
with praise team.
10:15 a.m. Children's Church

Weekly – There are over 25 small groups meeting during the week. Check our newsletter for a list of all the groups or you can find the list on our website: www.graceanglicanchurch.com.

Readings for Sunday

Genesis 32:3-30
Psalm 121
2 Timothy 3:14-4:5
Luke 18:1-8

We are using the English Standard Version of the Bible and the Lectionary from the Book of Common Prayer (Year C)

This Week at Grace – October 15 – October 22, 2013

Tues. October 15

11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study at Grace
4:30 p.m. Healing Prayer & Eucharist at CHC
7:00 p.m. Fr. Joe's Teaching on Revelation

Wed. October 16

6:10 a.m. Br. Benno's Team
10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thurs. October 17

7:00 a.m. Bible Study
11:30 a.m. Healing Eucharist at CHC
7:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal

Fri. October 18

Fr. Joe's Day Off
6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer & Healing

Sat. October 19

8:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study
10:00 a.m. Worship Team rehearsal

Sun. October 20 (22nd Sunday after Pentecost)

7:30 a.m. Spoken Service
8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Choir
10:00 a.m. Nursery opens
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Praise Team
10:15 a.m. Children's Church

Mon. October 21

6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer
6:30 p.m. Youth Group

Tues. October 22

11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study
4:30 p.m. Healing Prayer & Eucharist at CHC
7:00 p.m. Revelation Study with Fr. Joe

Card Ministry

We have a very active "card" ministry here at Grace and we could use your help. If you have extra greeting cards for birthdays, "get well" cards, "thinking of you", anniversary cards, etc., please bring them to the church office. They will be put to very good use by our quiet but powerful ministry of sending cards to those who might need a little encouragement or a good thought or a prayer right at the moment they receive the card.

By the way, if you don't receive a card on your birthday it means that we don't know when it is. Please email the church office with your birth date if you would like to receive a card on your special day.

Up-coming events

Oct. 16 Br. Benno's Team meets at 6:10 a.m.
Oct. 27 The "Matthew's" meet after 10:15 service
Nov. 1 Reconciliation with Bishop Atwood 6:30
Nov. 2 Reconciliation with Bishop Atwood 9-noon
Nov. 3 Angel Tree Sunday
Nov. 8 & 9 Women's Retreat with Donna Brayton at the Branches Healing Center
Nov. 15 A Time of Liturgical Contemplation
Nov. 28 Thanksgiving service at 10:00 a.m.
Nov. 28 Thanksgiving dinner at 11:30 a.m.
Nov. 29 Church office closed
Dec. 1 Advent Lessons and Carols
Dec. 5, 6, & 7 – Pictures to be taken at Grace for new color directory.
Dec. 11 Soaking Prayer