



Anglican Church of the Good Shepherd

Reaching Individuals and Families of the Concho Valley with the Transforming Love of Jesus Christ!

AGNUS DEI

February 2022

“The path of
the righteous
is level;
you make
level the
way of the
righteous.”

(Isaiah 26:7, ESV)

WITH MY WHOLE HEART

The Psalmist cried out “With my whole heart have I sought thee; O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee” (Ps. 119:10-11, KJV). God has placed a desire within our hearts to yearn after Him. Life without God becomes mundane, meaningless, and without purpose. Within the deepest depth of our being we often wonder, “Why am I here?” and “What difference does all of this make? Just like birds were meant to fly and fish were meant to swim, we are not meant to work and survive—only to survive. We are created to make a difference in this world, to look up and to praise God, and to care for one another. To do this we must look beyond ourselves.

God has placed Anglican Church of the Good Shepherd on one of the highest points in the city. Soon, our lot next to the church will have a cross on a hill facing the road as a testimony to the loving grace of Jesus as he paid the ultimate sacrifice for our sins. One of our members, Heath Belk, is building the cross for us and will erect it soon. The cross is not a decoration, but a declaration of God’s love for us. *On a hill far away, stood the old rugged cross, the emblem of suffering and shame. And I love that old cross where the dearest and best for a world of lost sinners was slain. . .* George Bennard penned these words in the Hymn “The Old Rugged Cross.” Though that cross represented shame, Bennard stated that “I’ll cherish. . . and I’ll cling to that old rugged cross.” When we realize how much God has sacrificed for us through Christ Jesus, we will respond with our whole hearts to Him. We plan to place large rocks (Jesus is our solid rock!) around the cross so that we can meditate and embrace the magnitude of His love for us. We need to slow down. We need to turn down the distracting noise. We need to focus on the eternal. When our hearts are touched by His grace, the world seems much more like a miracle prepared for us. One of our Anglican prayers eloquently states, “We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.” God has placed us on this hill as a testament of His glory. Let us reflect His light.

(continued)

Anglican Church of the
Good Shepherd

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Send articles, announcements
and feedback to

admin@anglicancgs.com

When we are finished with the cross project, we will have solar powered lights to illuminate the cross at night. Powered by the sun, the light will break the darkness of the night. The Son of God so enlightens this dark world that even an old cross becomes a "plus symbol" of God's redemption. We also will have trails near the cross. To the left and right of that path will be full of rocks and thorns, just like life. While the pathway will have its own ups and downs, it will still be much easier to traverse. "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Ps. 119:105); "The way of the just is uprightness; thou most upright, doest weigh the path of the just" (Isa. 26;7); "In all your ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Prov. 3:7). The cross, light, and pathway on our lot next door symbolizes our life-journey, challenges, faith, and salvation. Let's diligently seek the Lord with our whole heart and passionately live out our Christian faith and heritage.

Fr. Hal

WEEKLY PLATE OFFERINGS SCHEDULE

Each Sunday of the month our cash plate offerings will be designated for one of our mission outreach organizations.

The schedule of weekly offerings is as follows:

- 1st Sunday of the Month—Discretionary Fund
- 2nd Sunday of the Month— PHC
- 3rd Sunday of the Month—La Gran Familia
- 4th Sunday of the Month—Casa Bethesda
- 5th Sunday of the Month—Meals for the Elderly

The Church Office
will be closed Monday,
February 21st
in observance of
President's Day.



Newly Elected Vestry Members



Kevin Riley, Charlotte Sweatt, and Jean Yarbrough are our newly elected Vestry members. They will serve three-year terms.

THANK YOU to outgoing Vestry members Mark Findlay, Billie Ruth Hodges, and Paul Millican. Your leadership and commitment have been a great blessing.



*The Daughters
meet the first
Saturday of
the month at
10am in the
Conference Room.*

*(Unless the first Saturday falls on a holiday)
The February meeting will be held at
10am on Saturday the 5th.*

THE FEBRUARY 2022 VESTRY MEETING

is Monday,
February 28th
at 5:30pm in the
conference room.

We at Good Shepherd are a prayerful congregation. Aside from prayer lists within each Sunday bulletin, the Intercessory Prayer Group maintains a lengthier list which goes out weekly by email with frequent updates. If you would like to receive this list by email, contact Jean Stinnett at stinnetttranch@zipnet.us.



ANNOUNCEMENT & ARTICLE DEADLINES

The deadline to place an announcement in the weekly bulletin is Wednesdays at Noon and the deadline for the Parish Newsletter is the third Friday of the month. Submissions should be sent to Jenny at the church office, secretary.acgs@suddenlinkmail.com or drop it off at the church office Monday-Friday, 9-11:30AM or Noon-2:00PM. Thank you.



DON'T FORGET OUR
*PROJECT DIGNIDAD COLLECTION DAY IS
THE LAST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH.*
PLEASE BRING YOUR NON-PERISHABLE
DONATIONS TO BE BLESSED.



Holy Eucharist and Bible Study

For those who are interested in following the 2 Timothy, Titus study, it is Live on Facebook, **Wednesdays at 4:00 PM.**



We will have a "History of Christianity" study for those attending the **Wednesday 6:00 PM** service.

We will continue our Christian Formation study on **Sunday mornings at 9:15am.**



If you would like to provide altar flowers, **please write your name and the Sunday of your choice, also what you want printed in the bulletin** on the flower chart on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Flowers are purchased from Southwest Florist and are billed directly to the signer(s) for approximately \$45.00. You may contact the florist if you would like to choose special flowers but it may incur additional cost.



*All are invited to join us for
Praise & Prayer Fellowship
in the Nave at 5:30pm each Saturday.*

**FOR A SERVICE OF PRAISE
MUSIC AND PRAYER**

It's crazy how the presence of God can completely change your mood and attitude in an instant. One worship song, one whispered prayer, one scripture verse can take you from the absolute worst mindset to a place of such peace and joy. There is nothing like the presence of God.

Project Dignidad 2022 Easter Blessings



Can of green beans or peas
Can of yams or white potatoes
Can of peaches, fruit cocktail, or applesauce
Can of tuna or chicken
Small bag of rice
Small bag of pinto beans or can or refried beans
Box of Jell-O
Box of crackers
Box of macaroni and cheese
Box of cornbread or biscuit mix
Bag of cookies
Jar of peanut butter

A Christian gift under \$ 10
(Resurrection eggs, Cross, Bible, stuffed animal, etc.)

If you'd like to make a monetary donation to help Project Dignidad purchase hams, send your check to:
Project Dignidad
313 W. Ave. N
San Angelo, TX 76903
Note on your check Easter hams

Please bring your baskets to church from April 3 - 13
and they will be delivered to Project Dignidad.



LIVING WITH JESUS: THE POWER OF SACRED CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Christmas carols extol the nativity of Jesus in poetry and melody. The beauty of the solemn event pictures mother and Child in a stable lit by the bright star leading wise men with expensive gifts from the Orient. Angels sing praises and herald the joyful occasion to simple shepherds watching their flocks in the fields. The Holy Family is depicted as Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus.

In many Christmas carols Joseph (Mary's husband and Jesus' earthly guardian) stands quietly, solemnly near the manger along with stable animals. While carols may not accentuate their presence they play significant roles in Jesus' birth. For Joseph would come to serve as religious leader in the family, raising his Son in correct Jewish traditions. The stable beasts represent God's creation as witnesses to the Word made flesh. Let us look for a moment at Joseph's important role as the earthly father to the Lord Jesus. And in the lovely medieval French carol called The Friendly Beasts, each animal claims Jesus as "brother, strong and good."

Joseph and His Prophecy-fulfilling Dreams

In biblical times the supernatural world often communicated with humans through dreams. Ancient Jews, Egyptians, Greeks and Assyrians all had professional dream interpreters. Dream interpreters such as Daniel and Joseph the favorite son of Jacob played important roles in the Old Testament. Each man credited God for his visions and their meanings. As a result the will of God changed the course of human and religious history.

Consider Joseph of Bethlehem, the faithful servant God chose as the earthly father figure in the early life of Jesus Christ. In the Book of Matthew we learn of four dreams in which an angel of the Lord instructs Joseph in the care of Mary and her Son. In each situation Joseph's obedience fulfills Messianic prophecy from the Old Testament.

The Gospel of Matthew begins with the genealogy of Jesus as it was traced through fourteen generations of the lineage of Joseph, the husband of Mary (Matthew 1:1-17). Joseph is called a righteous man, one committed to his faith and loyal to his God (v. 1:19). At first he seriously considers quietly dissolving his betrothal when he learns Mary is pregnant with her first child. Social custom would have permitted this action. But then an angel of the Lord convinces him in a dream of her purity (v. 1:20) and gives him the Child's name: Jesus (v. 21). When he awoke, he did what the angel told him. Traveling to Bethlehem under Caesar Augustus's order to register for a census (Luke 2:1-3), Joseph fulfills another prophecy: that Christ would come from the house of David, in Bethlehem.

In a second dream an angel of the Lord warns Joseph to take Mary and Jesus from Bethlehem into Egypt because Herod planned to kill the Child. In the middle of the night Joseph obeys. After the death of Herod an angel instructs Joseph in a third dream to return from Egypt to Israel. After a fourth dream Joseph withdrew to Nazareth in Galilee, thus fulfilling prophecy that Jesus will be called a Nazarene (Matthew 2:25).

Biblical sources explain little about Joseph's personal life. From the story of the twelve-year old Jesus (Luke 2:41-52) we learn he and Mary shared joint responsibility in parenting this gifted Child, and that Jesus was obedient to them both. Whether Joseph was a carpenter or artisan of various materials depends upon translation of the word **tekton** from original texts. Either way, Joseph trained Jesus in his trade as was the custom of the time. Joseph is not mentioned in Jesus' three-year ministry. Scholars assume he died leaving Mary widowed. As the eldest child, Jesus assumed responsibility for her care and the leadership position over His siblings. At his crucifixion Jesus gives care of his widowed mother over to His beloved friend, John.

Though not the biological father of our Lord Jesus, Joseph played a major role in assuring our Savior grew in Jewish tradition. Steeped in His religion and culture, Jesus knew the Law, Scriptures, prophesy, and the will of God. Christ was authentic in all predictions and promises, truly rooted in fact and faith. As His guardian, Joseph lived up to God's plan for him in nurturing His one and only Son. Saint Joseph was declared patron of the Universal Church in 1870 by Pope Pius IX.

The Friendly Beasts

This carol is traditionally known to come from twelfth-century France set to the Latin melody known as ORIENTIS PARTIBUS. Original authorship is unknown but current English words were written by Robert Davis in 1920. It has been recorded by Burl Ives, Harry Belafonte, Johnny Cash, Garth Brooks, and Peter, Paul and Mary.

Jesus, our brother, strong and good, was humbly born in a stable rude, and the friendly beasts around him stood, Jesus our brother, strong and good.

"I," said the donkey, shaggy and brown, "I carried his mother uphill and down, I carried his mother to Bethlehem town; I," said the donkey, shaggy and brown.

"I," said the cow, all white and red, "I gave him my manger for his bed, I gave him hay to pillow his head; I," said the cow, all white and red.

"I," said the sheep with curly horn, "I gave him my wool for his blanket warm, he wore my coat on Christmas morn; I," said the sheep with curly horn.

"I," said the dove, from the rafters high, "I cooed him to sleep that he should not cry, we cooed him to sleep, my mate and I; I," said the dove, from the rafters high.

Thus all the beasts, by some good spell, in the stable dark were glad to tell of the gifts they gave Emmanuel, the gifts they gave Emmanuel.

Luke 2:7

Jean Stinnett

JOIN US FOR OUR SPIRITUAL FORMATION CLASS SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 9:15AM



Come join us at 9:15 in the conference room every Sunday morning for an introduction to spiritual direction. Each week a scripture is prayerfully chosen for group reflection. This reflection compliments the formation theme of the week (i.e., yearning, attention, beholding). Individuals are invited to share what awareness the Holy Spirit is highlighting for them in their own lives. Thus, with His leading, a group atmosphere is fostered that engages our minds, hearts, experiences, and our need for community. The goal of each study is to allow God to meet each person where they are in the journey toward unity with Christ (Eph 4:1-16).

IN
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- Living With Jesus:
The Power of Sacred Christmas Carols
by Jean Stinnett

Happy Birthday! February Birthdays

2/1	Leann Springer
2/1	Stanley Holik
2/6	Patty Debenport
2/20	Richard Roberts
2/20	Jo Millican
2/23	Kathi Johnson
2/23	Martha Sue Oliver
2/24	Ben Schroeder
2/28	Linda Schneeman

March Agnus Dei Deadline is February 18th



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