



Anglican Church of the Good Shepherd

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

AGNUS DEI

June 2021

*"The prayer
of a righteous
person has
great power
as it is
working"*

James 5:16,
ESV

WHY PRAY?

Why would a Sovereign God want or need us to pray? Doesn't God already know everything? Hasn't God already established his will for the world? While we can debate such matters endlessly we can also see the dynamic tension between the Sovereignty of God and the free will of mankind. I believe that we can best understand this tension when we look to the purposes of God. God created mankind to be in fellowship with Him. In fact, he created us ultimately to become a higher order than even the angels in heaven. Like any loving parent, God desires that His children grow and mature into the persons they were created to be. To do this, God has chosen to limit himself on many matters when it comes to mankind. For instance, a love that is compelled may not be a true love. A love that freely chooses to direct itself to God honors the Creator. To love freely requires freedom of choice. To love God is to fellowship with Him, spend time alone in prayer, read His word, worship with other believers, joyfully serve others, and to spread His word. God's grace enables us to respond to Him. Our faith, prompted by His grace, is believing that God is true to His Word and will reward those who seek Him.

Our time in this life is a sacred trust and a test. Every moment we experience is a gift from God. What are we doing with this precious gift? Our purpose—and His desire for us—is to grow in maturity in Christ and spiritually to become one with one another and with Him. To do this we have to communicate with our Lord. Some recommend that we PUSH: "pray until something happens." Others inform us that we may shape our prayers through ACTS: "adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication." Praying through the Scriptures, especially Psalms, is often provided as a Scriptural model. The Lord's Prayer, Jesus' prayers found in John 15-17, and the prayers offered by Paul in his Epistles have often been provided as a way

(continued)

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to pray. "Praying in the Spirit," which is usually understood as "praying in unknown tongues" is another form of prayer found in Paul's writings. Many wonderful time-tested prayers are also found in our Anglican Books of Common Prayer. Others of us pray randomly whatever pops into our head/spirit in that moment. Some Christians use a list to pray for a variety of issues, areas, concerns, and people. Christians also pray without words by being silent before God. Singing or listening to music also prompts prayer for many Christians. Since there are so many ways to pray, we can see more clearly how Paul instructs us to pray in the Spirit and to pray without ceasing.

God created us to work with Him in His divine plan. Can you believe the God of creation wants to partner with us? We pray to honor God. We pray because it transforms our heart to have a passion for God. We pray because God uses our prayers to mature us and to change our realm for Kingdom purposes. We pray because a life not centered on God becomes a life drifting towards chaos and confusion. We pray because eternity is at stake for our friends, loved ones, and neighbors. We pray because we desire the presence of God to draw those seeking God to our services to find healing and restoration. We pray because we can only really understand ourselves and our place in this world when God's peace and presence fills our lives. We pray because the God of time and eternity dwells in our hearts and yearns for us to become truly whole.

Please continually lift in prayer your rector, church staff, elected representatives, and family members. Since you affirm our Anglican way of life, worship, and prayer, pray specifically that those to whom God has called to our fellowship here and respond to His voice. Pray that we may have revival and spiritual awakening to the glory of His Name. Pray that we may desire only Him and His Kingdom above all. Pray that our intimacy with Jesus grows so intensely that we are aware of his presence throughout the day. Pray that the Holy Spirit so shines in our life that the fruit of the Spirit is evident and the power of the Spirit is displayed through His gifts. Pray that the grace of God pours through our life as though we were walking under a powerful waterfall. Pray that we may open our eyes and see the beauty of God's love and creation all around us. Pray that we may fully love and forgive all those who have offended us and that we may reach out in love to those whom we have offended. Finally, pray that God's will be done on earth and it is in heaven. God wants all of these for us. Prayer, submission, obedience, and love broadens our ability to receive, believe, and behave. Amen!

Fr. Hal

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Fr. Hal", written in a cursive, flowing style.

COVID-19 PROTOCOL UPDATE



Our Vestry decided at the May monthly meeting to amend our Covid-19 protocols.

We will now be serving communion at the altar rail from the chalice by intinction, passing the peace and passing the plate.



ACGS offers healing prayer

administered by our lay healing prayer team. If you desire physical, spiritual or emotional healing you may receive prayer immediately after communion in our chapel.

THE JUNE 2021 VESTRY MEETING

The regular monthly Vestry meeting will be the

Monday, June 28, 2021

at 5:30pm in the conference room.

*Daughters of the Holy Cross
monthly meetings will be held on
the 1st Saturday of the month.*



*Our June meeting will be held
Saturday, June 5 2021 @ 10:00AM
in the conference room.*

SUMMER ABSENCES

Many of us are traveling this summer. While you are away from home, remember to keep holy the Lord's Day by worshipping in a church where you are. You can find a list of Anglican Churches at the Provincial website:
www.anglicanchurch.net

**If you are scheduled to serve
please find a replacement prior to
your departure and let Jenny
know in the church office!**

June 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 4:00 PM Ephesians Study on Facebook 6:00 PM Holy Eucharist and "How Shall We Then Live" Bible Study	3	4	5 <i>Daughters of the Holy Cross @ 10:00am in the Conference Room</i> <i>Praise & Healing Fellowship in the Nave 5:30pm</i>
6 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM – HE	7	8	9 4:00 PM Ephesians Study on Facebook 6:00 PM Holy Eucharist and "How Shall We Then Live" Bible Study	10	11	12 <i>Praise & Healing Fellowship in the Nave 5:30pm</i>
13 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM – HE	14	15	16 4:00 PM Ephesians Study on Facebook 6:00 PM Holy Eucharist and "How Shall We Then Live" Bible Study	17	18	19 <i>Praise & Healing Fellowship in the Nave 5:30pm</i>
20 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM – HE	21	22	23 4:00 PM Ephesians Study on Facebook 6:00 PM Holy Eucharist and "How Shall We Then Live" Bible Study	24	25	26 <i>Praise & Healing Fellowship in the Nave 5:30pm</i>
27 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM – HE	28 5:30 PM Vestry Meeting	29	30 4:00 PM Ephesians Study on Facebook 6:00 PM Holy Eucharist and "How Shall We Then Live" Bible Study			

June 2021 ~ Ministry Schedule

Duty	June 6 Second Sunday after Pentecost	June 13 Third Sunday after Pentecost	June 20 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost	June 27 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Vestry In Charge	Kathi Johnson	Erlene Springer	Sharon Weber	Linda Wilson
Tellers	Jeannette Anaya Sharon Weber	Billie Smithwick David Harrison	Mark Brown Charles Westbrook	Kathi Johnson Billie Smithwick
Altar Guild	Holloway/Wallace	Johnson/Springer	Weber/Caskey	Anaya/Read
	10:30 am	10:30 am	10:30 am	10:30 am
Greeters and Ushers	Charles Westbrook Linda Wilson	Teddye Read David Harrison	Erlene Springer Jeannette Anaya	Rosemary Holm Charles Westbrook
Crucifer	Jeannette Anaya	Heath Belk	Mark Brown	Larry Weber
Torch/Flag Bearer	Amber Woolard Alex Woolard Kylie Simmons Rowan Schroeder	Amber Woolard Alex Woolard Kylie Simmons Rowan Schroeder	Amber Woolard Alex Woolard Kylie Simmons Rowan Schroeder	Amber Woolard Alex Woolard Kylie Simmons Rowan Schroeder
Lector	Rosemary Holm Deuteronomy Genesis 3:1-21	Stacy Belk Ezekiel 31:1-14	Steve Woolard Job 38:1-18	Debra Riley Deuteronomy 15:7-11
Eucharistic Minister	Anngie McWilliams Psalm 130 2 Corinthians 4:13-18	Sharon Weber Psalm 92 2 Corinthians 5:1-10	Billie Smithwick Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32 2 Corinthians 8:1-15	Mark Brown Psalm 112 2 Corinthians 8:1-15
Gospel of the Day	Mark 3:20-35	Mark 4:26-34	Mark 4:35-41, 5:1-20	Mark 5:22-43

Psychology and Jesus: Self Respect

Self-respect is defined as having proper regard for oneself as a human being. This implies a positive value, or self worth. It includes holding yourself in high esteem with dignity and honor. Further, it shows a realistic perspective of one's strengths and weaknesses, and confidence in one's abilities. When you respect yourself, you teach others to respect you, too.

A person with positive self-respect is not egotistical, self-centered, or selfish. Rather, the focus is on validating oneself as significant, worthy, and lovable. It is an important part of identity which is the distinguishing character or personality of an individual. We all crave individuality; that is, an essence of uniqueness which separates us from others. We want to live meaningful, useful, and successful lives. This is more possible and enjoyable with positive self-respect.

Self esteem means how you feel about who you are, whereas self-respect is your confidence in your own self worth. Both are important aspects in leading a productive life.

Webster's Dictionary defines confidence as faith in oneself without any suggestion of conceit or arrogance; a belief that one will act in a right, proper, or effective way; a feeling of awareness of one's powers or of reliance on one's circumstances. With confidence we have an assurance and certainty that we are worthy, honored, and esteemed as individuals.

Transformational hypnotherapist Marisa Peer suggests five ways to enhance confidence.

1. Grow from constructive criticism. Look for a growth opportunity. Find a compliment in criticism. Learn from what others are saying to you. Find a way to improve yourself.
2. Shut down toxic criticism. Say, "thank you for your opinion," and avoid becoming defensive. Learn to let it roll off your back. This may take practice and that's OK.
3. Define your values. Know your beliefs, your ideals, your principles, and passions in life. Proclaim and live by them.
4. Check your self-talk. Negative self-talk is that critical voice within our heads that eats away self-esteem. Catch yourself doing this, and stop. Replace negativity with positivity and your mental attitude will improve.
5. Combat self-doubt with three little words: "I am enough." Maintain a positive yet realistic view of yourself as significant, lovable, confident, caring, productive, successful person.

No one likes being criticized, yet there is good in taking advice from wise people. Realize you can learn from others and move on. Some people are hurtful and mean. So when it comes to toxicity, take a different approach. Do not get sucked into an argument. Silence is golden at times like this, because it takes two to argue. And if you're not one of them, then there is no argument. Define your values because your values define you. Practice positive self-talk. It is a powerful tool to use in focusing your personal energy. Maintain a positive mental attitude and you strengthen your physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual well being. Realize God loves you exactly where you are, and seek His purpose for your life.

The Holy Bible has much to say about personal integrity which is defined as completeness, honesty, firm adherence to a moral code of values, the quality or state of being complete or uncorrupted. This completeness is called holiness, for we are set apart for God's good will.

We were made in God's image to worship and serve Him (Genesis 1:26). We were planned before birth by God: "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb" (Psalm 139:13). We are the workmanship of the Maker (Psalm 138:8). We are taught to be wise as we follow God's Law (Proverbs 1:1-7, 3:5-10). By grace through Jesus Christ we have been saved, not by our own deeds; "for we are God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Ephesians 2:8-10). Christ warned about evil and told us that He came to give life (John 10:10). Jesus says we were given to Him by His Father to be granted eternal life through His authority, a guarantee of His desire for a relationship with each of us (John 17:1-3). He calls us His friend, chosen and appointed to bear fruit (John 15:15-16). Amazing grace, indeed!

And there's more! God demonstrated His love for us while we were still sinners in the sacrifice of His only Son, the Lamb of God (Romans 5:8). We are living letters, messengers of the Spirit of the living God (2 Corinthians 3:2-3). God made us alive in Christ's resurrection, and complete in Him (Colossians 2:9-15). We are declared the people of God since we are called out of darkness (sin) into the Light (Jesus) because of God's great mercy (1 Peter 2:9-10). And, we are God's children and heirs to His kingdom with Christ (Romans 8:16-17).

As you consider your personal identity and integrity, remember who you really are: a royal child of the King, set apart by His grace to do works He prescribed for you before you were born. True believer, you are a sinner saved by grace in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Messiah. Your body is a holy temple wherein Christ abides. The Holy Spirit is your guide, convicting you of righteousness, and judgment, and sin. You are forgiven each morning as His mercies renew. Yes, you will make mistakes. You will stumble and fall. And with a penitent and contrite heart, you will be forgiven.

Here is my prayer: Ancient of Days, Your splendor is revealed in Your Son, Jesus. My faith in Him will not waiver, neither to the left nor the right. I set my moral compass on Him who is the way, the truth, and the life. I will trust in my God, and lean not on my own understanding. For I know my Redeemer lives and I am born anew in Him. In Christ alone I pray. Amen

Jean Stinnett LPC



Holy Eucharist and Bible Study

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

For those attending the **Wednesday 6:00 PM** service we are beginning our "How Should We Then Live?" Bible Study

We will continue our study of the Gospel according St. Mark on **Sunday mornings at 9:15am.**



**IN
THIS
ISSUE**

AGNUS DEI



- Pastor's Message "Why Pray"
- Covid-19 Protocol Updates
- Summer Absences and the Ministry Schedule
- Psychology and Jesus: Self Respect
by Jean Stinnett



6/3 Julie Springer
6/11 Cohan Hennings
6/17 Stephen Reisdorfer
Rowan Schroeder
6/18 Fr. Hal Scott
6/28 Rolly Dunteman

July Agnus Dei Deadline is June 18th



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