



# Anglican Church of the Good Shepherd

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

## AGNUS DEI

April 2023

*"And let the  
peace of  
Christ rule in  
your hearts,  
to which  
indeed you  
were called in  
one body.  
And be  
thankful."*

*(COLOSSIANS 3:15,  
ESV)*



### We Are Possessed

Jean Stinnett, LPC

Lent allows us forty days before Easter to meditate upon the cross. Rightfully so, Christians cannot even look at the cross without running the gamut of emotions: shock, horror, terror, revulsion, grief, pathos; then wonder, relief, hope, and joy. Jesus Christ lived and died according to the will of His Father to save us from eternal despair and to bring us home again, united and reconciled with God. Jesus did this for you and for me, once for all, the ultimate act of love and salvation.

How can we understand this kind of love from the Supreme Creator of the universe, King of kings and Lord of lords, that He sent His only Son to live, die, and rise victoriously from the grave for all humanity? He tells us in His own Word we are created in His image. We are the apple of His eye. We are His delight. He will never leave or forsake us. God named us in the beginning, and knitted us within our mothers' wombs.

Jesus' death and resurrection tore the veil and broke the barrier separating us from the Father, shattering the wall of sin that came with Adam's fall from grace. Jesus gives us direct access to the Owner of creation.

To be possessed means to be held as a possession, to be influenced or controlled by something, to be owned, occupied, and dominated. What a magnificent concept!

In truth, we have always belonged to Him. In the act of divine reconciliation, Jesus recovers us from sin and returns us to the fold. The prodigals' journey is over, the wanderers are home.

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Yes, true believer, we are possessed by the God who is love. He is determined to draw us ever closer to Him each day. Our God desires a relationship with each of us without favoritism where no one is left out. All who believe in Jesus are saved. All who truly repent are forgiven. All are invited to the throne of grace. All are welcome at the banquet set before the Lamb of God. All who obey His commands are holy. All are made heirs to God's kingdom.

Isn't He amazing?

When we invite Jesus into our hearts, we give up self will and ask Him to take control. We ask Him to abide in us. We ask Him to take every thought captive. We ask in prayer to be filled with the Holy Spirit, His gift and reminder of a faithful and eternal triune God. We seek the mind of Christ and follow in His holy footsteps as the body of Christ, the Church. We desire to be His hands and feet, continuing His worldly ministry as His disciples.

Our God continually calls us to be holy and separate for Himself. He speaks and listens to us, lives within us, gives us good works to walk in for His honor and glory in this world, then corrects and rebukes us when we stray. God is the source of every good thing. All our possessions come from Him: not fate, nor luck, nor nature, nor false gods. He is Adonai, Master over all. In His service we are perfectly free.

Therefore, let us give thanks in all things, even and especially the cross. Spend time each day with God who calls you cherished, beloved, chosen, and friend. Softly and tenderly Jesus whispers your name, calling you closer to Him. His joy is everlasting, and free to all who truly believe.

Jesus is our treasure, and we in turn are His. Relish this thought. Bask in His amazing grace. And be possessed by Him completely in thought, word and deed. In His presence you will find uncompromising, irrevocable peace which passes all understanding.

And now, to Him be all honor and glory forever, Amen.

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your heart." Colossians 3:15 Jean Stinnett, LPC

And let the peace of God  
rule in your hearts,  
to the which also ye  
are called in one body;  
and be ye thankful.  
**Colossians 3:15**

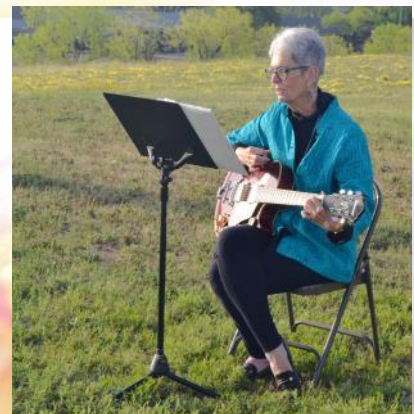




# *My Lord, What a Morning*



*Easter  
Sunday  
2023*

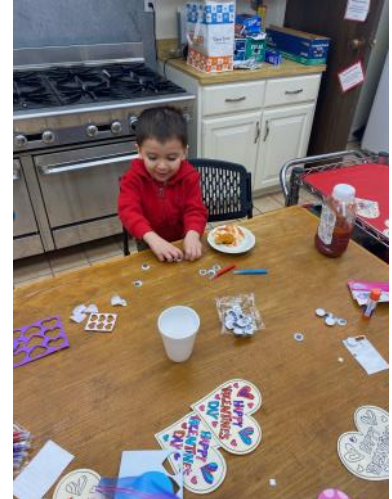






# GOOD SHEPHERD'S

## Children's Ministry Moments



This Spring our Children's Ministry has been full of fun and formational activities. From Parents' Night Out activities to Lenten and Holy Week experiences, our children are growing in their faith and knowledge of what it means to be a member of the family of God. Thank you to our adults who take such care of our little ones. *What you do matters.* Thank You for helping our kids love Jesus!



Thank you to everyone who helped make our Children's Easter Egg Hunt a great success!





# HOLY WEEK AT A.C.G.S.



Holy Week is a time of preparation, in many ways. Our members are faithful to show up and contribute in prayer, sacrifice and good works in preparation for Easter.







We kicked off Lent with two of our favorite annual ACGS events. The Shrove Tuesday Pancake and Sausage Supper and Friday Fish Fry. Thanks to everyone who served and attended!



Tony Nguyen recently returned from a visit home to Vietnam and brought with him a gift for Fr. Hal.

This image of Jesus with crown of thorns is a hand made Rice Art piece.

Tony explained the picture was made by blind Vietnamese orphans.

Stop by Fr. Hal's office to see it up close. It is inspiring!





Henry McWilliams organized the addition of two new statues to our entry garden this Spring. Jesus The Good Shepherd and Praying Basilica Angel were installed in the garden area as you approach the office door. With the addition of beautiful plants, this area is a welcoming, peaceful, and spiritual sanctuary. Thank you Henry and Angie!



**IN  
THIS  
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- We Are Possessed ~ Jean Stinnett
- Holy Week and Easter Sunday in Pictures
- Children's Ministry Moments
- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper & Lenten Fish Fry
- New Statuary Dedication ~ Henry and Anngie McWilliams



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of the Good Shepherd



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