

Good News Daily
The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

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Number 2

Sunday, January 8

Genesis: 1:1—2:3 *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth* (1:1 NLT)

The writer of Genesis tells us that the earth was “empty, a formless mass cloaked in darkness.” Then God called forth light; made dry land appear; covered it with grass, plants and trees; separated day and night and made lights in the sky; made fish, birds and animals. Last of all, He made people in His image and likeness to be masters over all life. After each act of creation God “saw that it was good” and, after creating people, He looked over all He had made and “saw that it was excellent in every way.”

Our great God who could create this marvelous planet we call home from a formless mass and feed thousands on a hillside with a few small loaves and fishes can certainly take the small and messy things of our lives and make them into orderly and mighty things. Are we ready to surrender to Him?

Whether you made New Year’s resolutions or not, this might be the exact moment to turn all the big and little things of your life over to God. It is too heavy a burden to carry. Jesus tells us to give all our worries and cares to him (1 Peter 5:7). Only then can we be certain we will really have a happy New Year!

Thank you, Lord, that You can make order out of chaos.

Psalms 146, 147; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:29-34

Include in your prayers: Krystal Pierce, Carol Block, Lori Zenobia, Tony Montgomery, Louise, Frank LePore, Jack P., Michelle and family, Sheila Gimbel, Diane Spero, Mary Ann Pfohl, James Baur, Peter Swistock, Chad Ring family, Charlotte Calahan, Helen Church, Maggie Cripps, Bobby, Betty Anne Schlegel, Dave Dimon, Lillian Lewis, Norma Pumphrey, Barbara Phillips, Biby DaVila, Norman Hinman, Jackie Schmidbauer, Nancy Olssen, George, Melissa, Sally, Dick & Tom Shea, Rachel, Amanda Smith, Tim Grimes, Seth Mark Madison, John Reynolds, Wendy Williams, M.J. Dutchess

Monday, January 9

Psalm 4 *I will lie down in peace and sleep, for you alone, O LORD, will keep me safe.* (v.8)

What a great prescription for a good night’s sleep! We do not have to stay awake worrying about terrorists and war. We can put our trust in the Lord our God and find rest. As Christians, we can turn to the Lord for His peace. As the Apostle Paul says in Philippians 4:6-7, “Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. If you do this, you will experience God’s peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.”

Verse 6 of Psalm 4 says, “Let the smile of your face shine on us, Lord.” We can picture Jesus watching over our loved ones and protecting them (and us). He never gets tired or lonely or afraid. He has promised never to fail us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). That truly is good news!

Thank You, Lord, for Your peace that passes all understanding.

Genesis 2:4-25; Psalms 1, 2, 3; Hebrews 1:1-14; John 1:1-18

Include in your prayers: Ken, Nico Clothier, Adele Herbert, Suzanne Turner, Patricia McMahon, Nancy Donovan, Bob Schollmeyer, Genevieve Flynn, Larry Bischoff, Kaye Bischoff, Rusty Miller, Matthew Ruppell, Sarah Lawler, Ann F., Diane, Teresa Sarcia, Herb Fleck, Duchon Family, Terri and Diane, Irene Habernickle, Carrie Moon, Barbara Jones, Claudia Kronenberg, Beverly Habig, Wally Bates, Dianna Nuquist, Pat Douglas, Priscilla Fisher, Vicki McFale, Kendall Grashof, Jerry Karlan, Erica, Eric Mac

Tuesday, January 10

Genesis 3:1-24 *The Lord God said, “The people have become as we are, knowing everything, both good and evil.” (v.22)*

The crafty, shrewd serpent tempted Eve to eat the forbidden fruit by saying, “You will become just like God, knowing everything, both good and evil” (v.5). And it was true—after they disobeyed, they knew both good and evil, whereas before, they had only known good.

Then the blame-game begins. Adam blames Eve, “It was the woman you gave me” (v.12), (meaning, “It is really your fault, God”). Eve says, “The serpent tricked me” (v.13). The wonderful, intimate fellowship God had in mind when He made people (in His image and likeness) was shattered. Women will bear children in pain, men will struggle to scratch a living from the earth, and they left the beautiful garden God made for them to enjoy.

As a friend of mine says, “There is only one God and He is not you!” Yet so often we still want to be in control and shove God out of the driver’s seat of our lives and run off in our own crazy direction. Can we learn a lesson from our first parents?

Dear Lord, help me let You run the universe and my life, and help me to serve Your Kingdom.

Psalms 5, 6; Hebrews 2:1-10; John 1:19-28

Include in your prayers: Robert Hutton, Debbie, Emily Block, Rhiannon, Margaret Martin, Nancy, Lori Norris, Priscilla, Amy, John Murdock, Gordon, Elizabeth Perry, Maggie, Gerald Orban, Roderick Buller, Joan S. Schmidt, Tom Kroll, Petey, John Gepfert, Ida, Jack Burdensiek, Casey Lee Gibbons, Earl and Diane Seely, Marino family, William Kelly, Anita Scarpa, Diane Manuel, Edgar Lail, Tom Pariseleti, Hallie Mylotte, Pat Cohen, Peter Hollis, Rose and Sam, John Christopher Garabrant, Arline Henderson, Karin Armbruster, William Newman, Patty Wagner, Diane McQuillen, Gina Alexander, Don Pampena, Thelma McHale, Joseph Womack, Stephanie Transue

Wednesday, January 11

Psalms 13 *I will sing to the Lord because he has been so good to me. (v.6)*

We have just come through Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany—what a loving, joyful time. Our families have gathered around festive meals, we have enjoyed the great music and beautiful worship services and decorations. We have exchanged greetings with friends near and far, and we have shared with those less fortunate than ourselves. We have entered a New Year of God’s grace. Our hearts are overflowing with praise.

Can we carry this inner joy for the next 12 months? Psalm 14:6b assures us that the Lord will protect His people. God tells Isaiah, “I will answer them before they even call to me. While they are still talking to me about their needs, I will go ahead and answer their prayers” (Isaiah 65:24). Certainly, from past experience, we know we can put our trust in the Lord and walk confidently into

this New Year.

By cultivating an attitude of gratitude, we will remember all the times when God has helped us. We will not forget all those answers to prayer He has sent our way.

Praise you, Lord, for all your kindness.

Genesis 4:1-16; Psalm 119:1-24; Hebrews 2:11-18; John 1:29-42

Include in your prayers: Jason Bolton, Leslie Hahn, Patty Hart, Richard Downing, Emmy Smith, Marilyn, Marie Oberacker, Dee Hanson, Jim Freese, Frank Alneida, Amy Kuryla, Lance Block, Jim Krainski, Brooke Waton, Jeanne Wilhelm, Jack McKenna, Valentine Houyvet, George Kinard, Joe D'Alessandro, Walter L., Katie Kish, J.D. Butler, Tina S.C., Joanne, Rowena Renn-Hicks, Ader Family, Katie Nehls, Grandma Jean, Verna Tulla, Russell Remington, Tamra Webster, O'Toole family, Thomas Downing, Devon Quigley, Mark Currin, Mary, John Hollenberg, the Reardon family, Bob Nilsen, Joe Lopez, Claire and Tim Wilson, Megen Moran, the Hoey family, Sean Ernst, Louise rockrode

Thursday, January 12

John 1:43-51 *"Just come and see for yourself."* (v.46)

Jesus had called Philip to be his disciple. Philip was from Bethsaida (the hometown of Peter and Andrew, two of Jesus' first disciples). Philip goes to find his friend Nathanael and tells him, "We have found the very person Moses and the prophets wrote about" (v.45).

Nathanael expresses some doubts about anything good coming from the small town of Nazareth. Philip does not argue; he just invites Nathanael to come to see for himself. After meeting Jesus, Nathanael gives his great testimony, "Teacher, you are the Son of God—the King of Israel" (v.49).

The good news about sharing our faith is that we do not have to give eloquent speeches or hit people over the head with a Bible. We can just invite them to come and see for themselves, as Philip did. When they recognize that something is different about our life, many will ask the reason. Then we can invite them to come to our church or Bible study or home fellowship group to see for themselves.

Dear Jesus, may my life be full of opportunities to encourage people to see You for themselves.

Genesis 4:17-26; Psalm 18:1-20; Hebrews 3:1-11

Include in your prayers: Alex, Elizabeth Johnston, Gary and Cindy Hogan, Linnea, Evelyn Corell, David Bradford, Helen Pace, Ruth Dans, Debbie Rannie, Peg Beasley, Norma Millar, Grace, E.J., Elise, Jim Riley, Gail Godek, Mike Rossi, Marie Pelikan, John Schmidt, Julia and Dale, Marvin Branscomb, Ryan Miller, Maurice Porter, Don and Shirley Themm, Bud Wakefield, Norma Egginson family, Chris and Kathy Nolte, Tom LeFevre, Zachary Aaron, Carol Jones, Rose Valentine, Joseph Murphy, Lydon family, Deedle and Jena Sandefer, Manuel family, Ashley, Rosemary Desmond, Devan Quigley, Hilary Montgomery

Friday, January 13

Psalm 22 *Our ancestors trusted in you, and you rescued them. You heard their cries for help and saved them. They put their trust in you and were never disappointed.* (vv.4-5)

As I think back to all the brave people who have helped make our country great, I marvel at

their faith and hard work. The Pilgrims who came here to have freedom to worship God as they saw fit, our early ancestors who carved farms and cities out of the wilderness (and built our churches), our hard-working parents and grandparents who survived the Great Depression (continuing to share with others), the many brave service men and women who have fought for freedom around the globe (many of them surviving prison camps by sharing hymns and Bible verses they had learned in Sunday School).

God has richly blessed America. He has guided us with His light from above. As our money says, “In God we trust.” He has never, and will never, disappoint us. But we must be faithful to Him.

Dear Lord, keep our country strong and help us stay strong in our faith and our trust in You.

Genesis 6:1-8; Psalms 16, 17; Hebrews 3:12-19; John 2:1-12

Include in your prayers: Lillian Sroaka, Julia Dillon, Melissa, Shirley Connell, Abigail, Rose Kyle and family, Mark Warburton, Elizabeth Dunn, George Dzama III, People of Haiti, Sara Sharpless, Jenny Sharpless, Society of St. Margaret, Sue Morie, Zack P., M.J. Becker, Gary Carter, Joe Hall, Point Bates, Toni and Joe Zedrosser, Peter S., Edward Hutton, Richard Farraro, McClain-Huslage family, Stephanie and Mary Kristen, Richard Yandow, Ava Schmidt, Lisa Roznick, Rick Schmitt, Bob Wallace, Neal Bardin, Jr., Lori Z.

Saturday, January 14

Psalm 116 *What can I offer the LORD for all he has done for me?...I will praise the LORD's name for saving me. I will keep my promises to the LORD in the presence of all his people.* (vv.12-14)

Does my life show forth the Lord's praise for all He has done for me? Or is there a long litany of complaints coming out of my mouth?

When I think of all His love and kindness, my lips should be spilling forth His praise. I should be keeping my promises to the Lord in the midst of my Christian family and friends. That pledge card I signed for stewardship Sunday—am I current with my contributions? That time and talent I promised to use for the Lord—have I been missing choir rehearsals and begging off when they call me to usher or teach or serve at church?

When I think of God's saving grace, my little gifts seem so small. But He is in the business of taking the loaves and fishes and making it more than enough.

Dear Lord, help me eagerly keep the promises I made to You.

Genesis 6:9-22; Psalms 20, 21:1-13; Hebrews 4:1-13; John 2:13-22

Include in your prayers: our country: for wisdom and guidance for our leaders and the leaders of all nations: for our armed forces, especially those now in combat: including: Dean Joseph Parker, Sgt. Steven Hallaway, Carl Grebe, Robert Stillman, Vincent Marcano, Joey Lail, Daniel DeLapiña, David Stegman, James Post, Harold Fitch IV, Gregory Campbell. Pray for our enemies; for peace, justice and reconciliation in all places where there is conflict, especially among the peoples of the Middle East. Please pray for Todd and Patsy McGregor and the people of Madagascar.

by Jacqueline Littleford

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