



Daily Meditations June 3-8, 2019

The Biblical readings are taken from the Daily Office in the Book of Common Prayer for Year 1 and written by the St. Stephen's Meditation Writing Team: Judy Aronow, Dave Boyd, Pat Gillory, Jay Nickel, Bob Reed, T. Cay Rowe, Lisa Wilkinson, and Carroll Wilson.

Click on the scripture reading for each day to go directly to link.

COLLECT for Easter 7:

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

Sing Forever

Monday, June 3, 2019

Psalm 89:1-18

"I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;" - Psalm 89:1

This is one of those verses in Psalms that just seems to resonate with me, because I sometimes feel I've been singing of God's love forever...or at least for 17 years in the St. Stephen's Choir. That is a constant source of joy for me. It is now such an ingrained part of worship for me that when I'm traveling and attend a church where I'm not singing with the choir, the worship experience feels incomplete. Between choir rehearsal, Sunday worship, and singing in the Wimberley Community Chorus, I always have a song going in my head. Choral singing is a wonderful full-body experience...it involves you physically, emotionally, and spiritually in a total worship experience. I had never sung in a choir before I came to St. Stephen's, but once we moved here, I summoned up the courage to try it. Seventeen years later, I'm so glad I did. It's been a very special part of my life here. Try it; you'll love it!

Come into God's Presence with Singing

Tuesday, June 4, 2019

Psalm 97, 99, 100

"Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing." - Psalm 100:2

The Psalms are often described as the Bible's song book. This verse certainly carries on that theme. Here is a specific instruction that the way to find God is through song. Don't know how to pray? Just sing! There is an old saying popular among choristers that "one who sings prays twice." Amen, amen.

To You, O Lord, I will Sing

Wednesday, June 5, 2019

Psalm 101, 109:1-30

"I will sing of loyalty and of justice; to you, O Lord, I will sing." - Psalm 101:1

The commentary in the Oxford edition of the NRSV translation explains that this psalm may have been used as part of a coronation ceremony for a king of Israel. What a remarkable way for a king to pledge the primary theme of his reign! Not only does he pledge to rule with loyalty to God and with justice to his people, but he commits that he will sing it. In other words, he will not only agree with the concepts of loyalty and justice, he will commit to singing them aloud for all the people to hear and understand. To put it in contemporary terms, this would be like a newly elected President singing the oath of office at his inauguration!

Give Thanks to the Lord

Thursday, June 6, 2019

Psalm 105:1-22

"O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples. Sing to him, sing praises to him." - Psalm 105:1-2

The psalmist calls on us to sing praises and give thanks to the Lord. The early Christian Greeks had a word for this thanksgiving: Eucharist! Every Sunday, the central movement of our worship is to give thanks to God for all the blessings we enjoy. The ultimate act of our worship is the celebration of Eucharist, in which we celebrate and remember the ultimate gift of Jesus--his own self-giving for us.

Listen, Right Now

Friday, June 7, 2019

Psalm 102

"God, listen! Listen to my prayer, listen to the pain in my cries. Don't turn your back on me just when I need you so desperately. Pay attention! This is a cry for help! And hurry--this can't wait!" - Psalm 102:1-2 The Message

Sometimes we just can't sing. The psalms are a collection of all kinds of songs and emotions, but there are days when we just can't sing. When someone dear to us is ill or in distress, when things just seem to be going terribly wrong, songs are far from us. What we want is God to listen to our heart-felt pleas and act quickly to resolve the situation. But first and foremost, we want assurance that God is listening to us. Lord, hear our prayer, right now!

You Can't See Easter from Good Friday

Saturday, June 8, 2019

Psalm 107:33-43, 108

"I'm ready, God, so ready, ready from head to toe. Ready to sing, ready to raise a God-song; 'Wake, soul! Wake, lute! Wake up, you sleepyhead sun!'" - Psalm 108:1b-2 The Message

Only a day later, when it seemed the songs just would not come, slowly they come back! For those of you who participated in the Wimberley Community Concert this spring, you may recall this glorious lyric from "The Awakening," by Joseph Martin, which could have come right out of today's psalm:

*Awake, awake my soul and sing!
The time for praise has come.
The silence of the night has passed;
A new day has begun.
Let music never die in me!
Forever let my spirit sing!
Wherever emptiness is found,
Let there be joy and glorious sound!*

You can't see Easter from
Good Friday, but it's there. Thanks be to God!

Connect with us

