

ALL ^{mine} _{yours} the *Joy*

of GENEROSITY

Devotional

May 25 - July 5, 2024



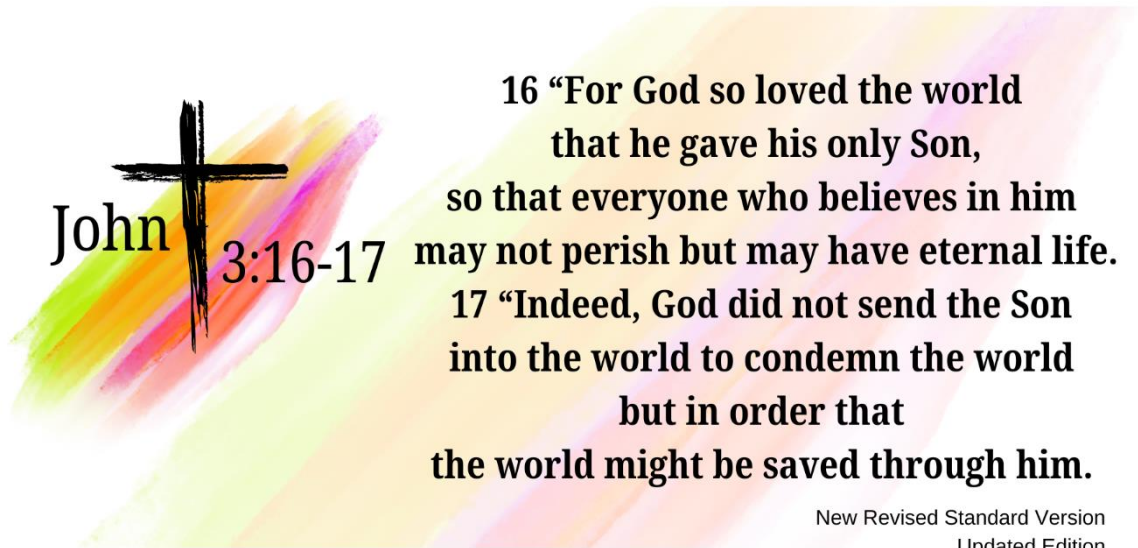
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A place where lives are changed by Christ
and we live out our faith together.



All Mine All Yours The Joy of Generosity

Scripture Memory Passage



Saturday, May 25, 2024

Read Psalm 24 and John 3: 16, 17 in preparation for Sunday’s service. Consider all that God owns and His generosity in sharing it with us. What happens to us when generosity becomes hardened through greed or self-protection? Together let’s open our hearts and hands to receive and to give.

Sunday May 26, 2024

Please join us in worship today!
There is a 9:00 am traditional service

and 10:30 am contemporary service.

Nursery care and Sunday School

are available for both services.

Live streaming can be found on YouTube, FPCAmbler.org or Facebook.



We welcome you!

This week's devotions were lovingly crafted by Leslie Wise.

Monday, May 27, 2024

Memorial Day

Many a cautionary tale has been written about the trap of riches and ownership. My favorite is *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. I thought I'd try my hand at writing a wee story. Its title is "*The Greedy Little King*." There is nothing in this story that hasn't been written about many times over, but the greedy little king needed to tell his tale, which is written over five devotional days. - Leslie Wise

Monday, May 27, 2024

Read: Psalm 24; John 3: 16,17; Psalm 50:10-12

Part One: There once lived a greedy little king. The king was very small in stature. He lived in a large castle on a mountain top surrounded by sky and earth. He often looked out of the turret and proclaimed, "All mine, all mine!! All I can see is mine!" He clapped his hands in glee. The wee king would then retire to his very large throne. He would sit and listen happily to the clink of the change sorters, the shuffling of the dollar counters, and the clacking of the adding machines as they tallied his fortune. The sounds were music to his ears.

Pray: Father, we are a possessive people. We are prone to wrap ourselves with the security of riches and feel at ease under the blanket of wealth. But that cozy cover may cause us to become entitled and lay heavily on our hearts. Help us to hold the reins of our possessions lightly. ***Thank you for those brave men and women who gave their lives for our country. There is no cozy cover in war. Allow us to consider our response to this sacrifice and be ever grateful.***
Tuesday, May 28, 2024

Read: Psalm 30:5; Psalm 3:4

Part Two: One morning the king arose and looked out his window. He thought he heard laughter. Could it be? He knew about laughter but hadn't heard it in a long time. Laughter had disappeared from his kingdom many years ago. The king stamped his tiny foot and decreed that all laughter should be his. He called for his soldiers and saddled his steed in search of this laughter. The horses' heads hung low. There was no spring or pride in their steps. The soldiers shuffled slowly through the dark forest. Even the trees had lost their majesty. Their leaves, which once reached to the sky, curled inward.

Pray: Father, though we may be sad and distraught with life in this world, You promise to be the lifter of our heads. We often bow our heads in grief like reeds. Laughter has gone from our lives. Give us the fast assurance that joy will come in the morning and that you will restore our brokenness. Hope grows anew with a touch of Your robe.

Wednesday, May 29, 2024

Read: James 4:1-3; 1Timothy 6: 17-19; Psalm 84: 11, 12

Part Three: The king arrived at the courtyard and hid behind a large tree. Everywhere he looked there was merry making. People were feasting and laughing and dancing in praise of a Great King. The wee king was very pleased and thought that the people were praising HIM! He stepped into their midst and raised his scepter. Suddenly, the music stopped. Laughter was stilled and the dogs hid under the tables. “This laughter is mine, all mine! Give it all to me!” He roared. There was quiet. Even the birds were silent. A small child got up and walked over to the king, bravely took his hand, and led him to a seat at the table. “Laughter is a gift from the Great King! We are praising him in dance and feasting together.” The wee king stared at his plate and smashed it in anger. “Who is this king? I must own him and this laughter now. Give me all of it! There is no one greater than I!”

Pray: Father, how many plates do we smash because of our pride and greed? We stamp our feet in anger because we want and do not have. Help us to realize that you give us “richly all things to enjoy.” You have not withheld any good gift from us. Help us to enjoy the gifts You have given and to perceive the gifts we cannot always see.

Thursday, May 30, 2024

Read: Ezekiel 36:26-27

Part Four: A villager bravely knelt before the king and said, “This King is the ruler of hearts of men. There is no fortune that can buy a heart”. “Then I must have a heart,” raged the king, “All hearts. Show me where they are”. The child reached up and placed his hand over the king’s wee heart. The king heard a sound. What is this? It was the sound of his own sadly beating heart. He had obtained riches, but his heart was cold, and stony. But then, something happened to his wee, hard heart. It broke wide open, and love spilled out. Love shone and sparkled over the land. The stars sang and the people leapt for joy. The dogs ran out from under the tables and the horses lifted their heads proudly again. He had given his only heart to the Great King. The little king laughed for the joy of it and decreed that the feasting must continue.

Pray: Father, You remove our hearts of stone and give us hearts of flesh. Help us to see where our hearts are stony. Allow us to receive a new spirit and to be brave enough to give up what we hold onto so tightly. A tight fist is constricting and exhausting. You held nothing back for us in Your mercy. Help us to bravely open our hands and begin to enjoy the feast You provide.

Friday May 31, 2024

Read: Psalm 24: 7-10 Isaiah 55:12

Part Five: Though the king remained small in stature, he grew large in heart. The wee king commanded that the gates of the castle be opened. The ancient doors were flung wide to receive villagers. The drawbridge was lowered. People came from miles around to celebrate the Great King. The once silent castle became renowned for its feasts and merry making. Music and the sound of a soaring melody now surrounded the land. Even the trees clapped their hands for joy. The little king would shout “Who is the King of glory?” The people would loudly reply “The Lord strong and mighty. The Lord of hosts! He is the King of glory!” The little king shed his miserly ways. He understood the Great King gave His only Son for us and held not a penny back. Although the counting house was still busy, the little king used his vast fortune to bring joy and care to the people of the land. He was given a new name by the people-King Valentin the Great Hearted. He was beloved by all for his faith in the Great King and for his large and generous heart.

The End.

Pray: Father, we may be known for many things, our careers, riches, family name, or reputation. Paul laid his standing down for the sake of the Gospel, from there it grew wide and far for generations. Help us not to burnish our reputations for adulation. For YOU are the Great King and all honor and glory belongs to you.

Saturday, June 1, 2024

Read Genesis 1:26-29 and Psalm 8 in preparation for tomorrow's sermon.

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? Yet, you have made them a little lower than the divine beings and crowned them with glory and honor. Psalm 8:3-5

Sunday, June 2, 2024

Come and worship the God of all creation!

Traditional service at 9 am and contemporary at 10:30

Live-streamed at FPCAmbler.org, YouTube, and Facebook.
You are welcome here!



This week's devotions were written by Bill Brams

Monday, June 3, 2024

Read: Genesis 1: 26

Reflect: This verse says so much. "Then God said, Let US make man in Our image, and likeness..." This verse is in the plural--- a reference to the Trinity. One God in three Persons.

This verse sets us apart from other living things. We are distinct and have a sense of morality, intelligence, and spirituality. We are given dominion over the earth and all living things. What a responsibility conferred on us. We are charged to be stewards of our planet and all living things.

This gave me pause. Am I doing enough in my small role as a steward of our planet? Have I carefully considered my dominion and its consequence for God's creation?

Prayer: Gracious God, you have placed me here for a reason. Help me to discern my place and my responsibility, embracing my interactions and responsibilities to all living things. Help me focus on my footsteps across our planet and to see more clearly the opportunities to be a steward of the earth.

Tuesday, June 4, 2023

Read: Genesis 1: 27-29

Reflect: God created us male and female, charging us with populating the earth. God has given us dominion over the earth and all the creatures on our planet. Such a responsibility! Of course, we have succeeded in populating our planet. Our sexuality is a blessing that leads us to start families to carry on the promises and responsibilities we have been gifted. In the 20th century we became faced for the first time with the ability to end human existence. To break our promise to God to populate our planet. Our success at populating our planet has created new challenges. Nuclear capability and our human impact on our environment threaten God's charge to us. How we each respond? This age has given us so many blessings and among them more time on this earth. We need to cherish each day and take action.

Prayer: Gracious God, you have given us the intelligence and capability to break the responsibilities you have given us. Not only in our daily one-on-one interactions, but in a global sense with our dominion over all living things and as stewards of this planet. I feel overwhelmed with so much to do, and I am just one person. Help me to see the small steps I can take each day to do my part.

Wednesday, June 5, 2024

Read: Psalm 8: 1-2

Reflect: How often do we marvel at the skies and beyond, the majesty of the universe. Simply gazing at the nighttime sky leaves us in awe. This Psalm extols the glory of God “above the heavens.” I have cherished the few moments when I enjoyed the total darkness of night, away from the pervasive nighttime lights of this modern age. A rarity for us now but a nightly show not so long ago.

Then the Psalm juxtaposes God giving power to the weakest of us (babes and infants) to silence the “foe and the avenger.” The power of God is seen both in the glory of creation and in the lives of small children. I yearn to be with my young grandchildren gazing at the nighttime sky. I need to make that happen soon and appreciate that powerful moment to celebrate the glory of God.

Prayer: Oh God, help me to see your glory in the heavens and in the cradles of infants. Gracious God, I know that I also fit into your creation equation. My brief moment on this earth is my opportunity to find times to celebrate your greatness and to further your kingdom in the name of our savior Jesus. Thanks be to God.

Thursday, June 6, 2024

Read: Psalm 8: 3-5

Reflect: David's Psalm asks a profound question when he ponders the majesty of God's creation of the heavens. Consider this - it is estimated that there are more than a billion stars in the universe. David's question: "what is man, that you are mindful of him?" An answer: we are one day to be "crowned with glory and honor." Dominion over the earth and all living creatures has been given to us. We are here but for a moment yet have been given so much. Each of us has been charged with rising to the moment in our daily lives. What can we do to honor this gift each day in even small ways?

Prayer: Gracious God, I know that you are mindful of even me. Help me to embrace that powerful idea as I rise to live another day. Guide me to see and respond to the opportunities that are available to me. Help me to celebrate your glory and the gift of your Son, our Lord Jesus.

Friday, June 7, 2024

Read: Psalm 8: 6-9

Reflect: This beautiful Psalm closes with a wonderful summary of what has been said before. Man has dominion over all living things and has stewardship over our planet. We have been given a great responsibility. God did indeed make us and place us here. Our destiny is revealed so clearly. To be sure, this Psalm is about man but before we become too prideful, it is much more about the glory of God. God has equipped us and charged us to appreciate and care for the majesty of what he created. For me, it demands a daily prayer as I seek to find a way each day to embrace and fulfill this gift to me.

Prayer: Gracious God, some days I feel small and insignificant. I can feel overwhelmed by the infinite needs that surround me. Help me see that my place is to focus each day on what in some measurable way can I do today to make things better for someone or some place. You have allowed our planet to number billions of individuals including just me. Help me to have wisdom to fulfill my part today.

Saturday, June 8, 2024

Read Genesis 2:4-3:7 in preparation for tomorrow's sermon.
Listen for the Holy Spirit to speak to you about this passage as you meditate on it.

Sunday, June 9, 2024

Today is a good day to worship together!

9:00 traditional service

10:30 contemporary service

Both online at FPCAmbler.org, YouTube, and Facebook



This week's devotions were written by Debra Lee.

Monday, June 10, 2024

Read: Genesis 2:4-7

Reflection: God's generosity toward us is evident in the creation account. He set apart the Earth, tucked safely into a tiny corner of His vast cosmic creation, with the perfect conditions we need to thrive and enjoy beauty! He created Adam, the first man, from small particles of star dust. Adam's life-soul came from the Breath of the Living God, the Holy Spirit, distinguishing humanity from all other organic life, as the crown of His creation, made in His Image! What humbling joy to know we are made in the Image of our loving Creator!

Prayer: Holy and Almighty God, we are in awe of Your creation and cannot begin to fathom the magnitude of Your greatness. You've given us Your Word for a glimpse of your sacrificial love and plan of salvation for us. You have given us all we need to thrive and find joy as your sons and daughters in the stunning beauty of our earthly home. Show us how best to honor You in our lives through the guidance of Your Holy Spirit, and in Jesus' name.

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Read: Genesis 2:8-17

Reflection: Out of God's love and generosity, He made the Garden of Eden, with four flowing rivers, plentiful food, and more natural beauty than we can imagine, placing Adam to tend it. He also placed the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil there, from which Adam was told NOT to eat or he would die. People have often questioned why God would do this? As those made in His image, God gave us the power to make our own choices. God will not violate our ability to choose. God knew what our choices would be, and because of His Love for us, gives us a path back to Him through Jesus Christ, correcting and completing us, giving us the fruit of life in His own Body and Blood. Can I see God's generosity toward humanity in giving us free will to make our own choices, and do I truly find joy in His plan for redemption?

Prayer: Holy and Almighty God, in Your wisdom you give us choices, and in Your love, you do not abandon us, but give us unlimited chances to make right choices, first by giving us the law, and then fulfilling the law-Torah in Your own Body and Blood. In Your generosity, You offer forgiveness and the path back to You through Jesus. Live in our hearts that we may make right choices.

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

Read: Genesis 2:18-25

Reflect: God saw that it wasn't good for Adam to be alone. He brought all living creatures to Adam for him to name, and then caused a deep sleep to fall upon him, performed a divine surgery, and fashioned the first woman made from Adam's own DNA, whom Adam named Eve. Here God establishes interdependence of humans, the importance of partnership and the sanctity of marriage. God calls us to be in relationship with His created world. It is through harmoniously interdependent relationships that we find joy, with other people and all creation! How is God's generosity reflected in our relationships with others and with His Creation?

Prayer: Holy Creator, You created men and women in Your own image. Give us hearts to continue tending to all you have made so that others may see Your image reflected in us and drawn to You, and so the Earth will sustain life for all generations until Your return. In Jesus' precious name.

Thursday, June 13, 2024

Read: Genesis 3: 1-5

Reflect: Genesis 3 opens with the story of the temptation of Eve. It describes

“The serpent,” later in scripture identified as Satan, as craftier than any of God’s creation—not the repulsive reptile we think of today, but likely a thing of beauty to lure Eve. Up to this point, Adam and Eve did not know evil, but only an idyllic life in the Garden of Eden.

Satan’s deception of Eve is the same tactic he uses today, veiling the truth with lies, waiting for our vulnerable moments, planting suggestions to make us doubt God’s Word or reinterpret His commands, and opposing and contradicting God’s authority. Like Eve, we imagine God’s character to our own liking, and fall into Satan’s trap of trickery and lies. Knowing this, we can be on guard, and affirm God’s authority by trusting in Christ to pardon our sins and overcome temptation. How can we wrestle with honest questions about the Bible, and be on guard against tricky deception?

Prayer: Almighty Father, You demand holiness and obedience that we may live eternally with You. You provide a way to be righteous in Your eyes through Jesus, who bore our sins on the cross, that we might die to sin. Guard our souls, Lord, and give us the power to overcome temptation! In Jesus Holy name.

Friday, June 14, 2024

Read: Genesis 3: 6-7

Reflect: Satan succeeded in deceiving Eve. She saw that the fruit was a delight to the eyes and desirable to make one wise. She made self-fulfillment her goal, and justified her choice to eat the forbidden fruit, which she presented to Adam, and he did the same. At that moment they spiritually died. Their eyes were open to guilt and shame, covering their nakedness with fig leaves, which led to alienation from one another and from God. The history of the human race from this point on is marred by the tragedy of sin. Wisdom isn't gained by disobeying God, but by living in awe and obedience for Him. It was God's mercy that spared Adam and Eve from striking them dead physically on the spot. God in his mercy has provided the way of deliverance from our sin through Jesus. As a follower of Christ, do I avoid what tempts me to sin, and repent when I recognize sin?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for your grace toward humanity and providing the way of deliverance from sin through the cross. By the grace of your Holy Spirit, help us to obey your commands that we may bear fruit and find true joy in our relationships, holding up our brothers and sisters in Christ and leading others to eternal life, through our Lord Jesus. Amen.

Saturday, June 15, 2024

Read Malachi 1:6-14 and 3:6-12 in preparation for tomorrow's sermon. As you read, think of what God is saying to his people and why. If you were to write these passages using examples from today, how would it read?

Sunday, June 16, 2024

Come and worship our generous God.

He is worthy of our praise, our all.

9 am traditional service, 10:30 am contemporary.

Both live-streamed at FPCAmbler.org, YouTube, and Facebook.



Monday, June 17, 2024

Read: Malachi 1:6-14

Reflect: Do you remember Father's Days past and the doilies on construction paper, the handprints in plaster, and the hilarious fill-in-the-blank poems about dad all made with love and given with joy? Can you also remember a time in which you, or perhaps your child, were urged to share toys and searched for the truck with the broken wheel or the doll with knotted hair to give to a playmate. Both come to mind as I read these passages in Malachai. God is the "giver of every good gift" (James 1:17) and everything we have is from him for us to use for his good purposes. Do we honor the King of kings by giving him our best? We give a portion of what God has given us in gratitude for our Father's provision.

Prayer: Lord, we are sinful people, and we are tempted to hold back what is precious. Help us to view money, possessions, homes, and selves as you do. May we value what you value, make investments that yield eternal returns, and faithfully give back to you, the giver of all good gifts.

Tuesday, June 18, 2024

Read: Malachi 1:4 *Cursed be the cheat who has a male in the flock and vows to give it, and yet sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished; for I am a great King, says the LORD of hosts, and my name is revered among the nations.*

Reflect: I am guessing you have not vowed to give God a lamb...But the idea here is that God, the great King of kings, is the generous “giver of every good gift (James 1:17)” and that he is deserving of our *best*, no holding back. There is the principle of “first fruits,” meaning we give to God off the top, not from what’s left over, less valuable, or unwanted. We give back to God a portion of what he has given us out of reverence for him.

Prayer: Father, we thank you for meeting all our needs. We thank you for gifts of family, friends, and funds. We honor you as Father, Provider, and Giver of every good and perfect gift. Help us to do our work to your glory, to receive with gratitude, and to give with joy.

Wednesday, June 19, 2024

Read: Malachi 3:6-12, Luke 21:1-4

Reflect: A recent global study, including over 40,000 people in 67 countries, found that those who perceived themselves to be lower on the ladder scale gave *more* in a hypothetical donation task. In another study, *lower* subjective wealth predicts *greater* generosity. Over and over, research suggests that the more people have, the less they give. This calls to mind the widow's mite of Luke 21:1-4. She gave all she had to live on. I often wondered about the wisdom in that! But I have to believe that God met her needs, that he honored the way she honored him by blessing her abundantly. As Christians, we recognize that all we have comes from the Lord. We honor him when we generously give to the work of his kingdom. Can you think of a time when you gave generously, and God abundantly met your needs? We give a portion of what God has given us demonstrating our trust in God to meet our needs.

Prayer: Lord, help us to trust that you will meet our needs. May we be thankful, generous, and wise.

Thursday, June 20, 2024

Read: Malachi 3: 6-12, 2 Corinthians 9:7

Reflect: Arthur C Brooks is a happiness guru. As an expert, he teaches at Harvard, writes books, records podcasts, and speaks at conferences. He has found that people find happiness through family and friends, faith, and being connected to something greater than themselves. When we give our tithes and offerings, we are participating materially in work that is so much bigger than what any of us could do on our own. 2 Corinthians 9:7 says that “God loves a cheerful giver.” The word translated as cheerful can also be translated as hilarious. God loves a *hilarious* giver. What joy to give generously, joyfully, even hilariously, participating wholeheartedly in his kingdom work.

Prayer: Lord, you who made the entire universe need nothing from us. And yet, you allow us to participate in your kingdom work, giving time, energy, and resources. You, who give us all, allow us to give back a portion in faith and in love. Help us to freely give, hilariously give, and thank you for the joy that brings.

Friday, June 21, 2024

Read: Malachi 1:6-14, Malachi 3:6-12

Reflect: We squirm a bit when we hear talk about money and giving from the pulpit. Apparently, God has no such qualms, as the Bible is full of teachings about money and giving. The Old Testament and the New remind us that everything we have comes from God and that it all belongs to him. What do we learn? Our giving should be *intentional*, honoring a commitment to give a certain portion before we spend on anything else---first fruits. Our giving should be *generous*, recognizing that we have been given much and trusting that God will provide for all our needs. Our giving should be *joyful*, filled with gratitude that we are able to give a portion back to the giver and bless others with our gifts. We give a portion of what God has entrusted to us in obedience to our God our Master, King, and the One who gives us life, love, and breath.

Prayer: Lord, you are worthy of all we could possibly give. Help us to be generous people and may you be honored as we give.

Saturday, June 22, 2024

Read Deuteronomy 14:22-15:11; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 in preparation for tomorrow's sermon.

Do these readings influence your personal economic policy? What do they teach you about God's values?

Sunday, June 23, 2024

Come! Let's worship our God together.

Traditional worship at 9 am

Contemporary worship at 10:30 am

Both are livestreamed at FPCAmbler.org, YouTube, and Facebook.



This week's devotions were written by Beth Hedges, who grew up at FPCA and currently serves as a missionary in Armenia.

Monday, June 24, 2024

Read: Deuteronomy 14:22-29

Reflect: This law about giving the tenth is a blessing for all. First, it results in a fellowship meal with the LORD - a visual reminder of the blessings of the LORD. Even more blessed are those far off who are commanded to "buy whatever you like" for the feast. The tenth continues to give additional blessings: providing for Levites (who had no tribal lands), foreigners, fatherless, and widows. Our tenth results in the same blessings: fellowship with the LORD in worship and provision for those in need.

Prayer: LORD our God, thank You for all the blessings You have given to me. I thank You for what is in my closet, my cupboards, and my home. Show me how to give what I have to You, so that I can fellowship with You and share Your blessings with others. Bless our church: meet with us and lead us into reverence and rejoicing through worship and ministry. Show us how to care for the needy so that Your blessings may pour out on all.

Song: I Surrender All | Reawaken Hymns | Official Lyric Video
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xSPcuV5Sli8>

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Read: Deuteronomy 15:1-6

Reflect: One of the rallying cries of the Credit Union movement, in response to debt that fathers passed on to children, was “The debt dies with the debtor.” It was a way to stop a system where debts went on and on, draining, crushing families. The LORD however has an even better system, “At the end of every seven years you must cancel debts” among God’s people. Unfortunately, payday loans and accumulative interest on fines or unpaid bills in our day continue to crush entire families and communities. What would it look like to find ways to apply the LORD’s principles in our current world?

Prayer: Father, thank You for the ways that You have provided for me and my family. You know our financial situation and places where we need Your help. I pray for those I know who have serious financial challenges. Help them. Show me if there is some way that I should be helping. I pray for those who are working on behalf of the poor – encourage them. Show me if there is some way that I should be involved. May Your abundance abound.

Song: The Cry of The Poor | John Foley |

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w_Q0FjuAUZY

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

Read: Deuteronomy 15:7-11

Reflect: Many cultures, including ours in the US, judge, condemn and accuse the poor. The LORD calls us to a model of openhandedness and generosity. It can be hard to care for the poor as there are often many difficult and complicated problems involved, both in their personal lives and also from larger cultural and societal problems. The LORD doesn't back down, saying, "There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded towards your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land." (15:11)

Prayer: Almighty and most merciful God, I remember before You all poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy for me to forget: the homeless and destitute, the old and sick, and all who have none to care for them. Help me to heal those who are broken in body or spirit and turn their sorrow into joy. Grant this Father, for the love of Your Son, who for my sake became poor, Jesus Christ our Lord (an Episcopal prayer for the poor.)

Song: **Come, O Spirit of God - Prayerscapes**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GzypaenKC_M

Thursday, June 27, 2024

Read: 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

Reflect: God loves a cheerful giver. What kind of giver am I? To whom am I generous and why? Where do I find it hard to be generous and why? Where could I “sow generously”? When was the last time I consulted with God about how and where I give? What insight do I need from God about ongoing giving and about special giving? Besides money what else can I be generous with?

Prayer: Father, You have given me life. Jesus, You have given Your life for me. Spirit, You have given me new life with your gifts and fruit. Help me to know how to spend what You have given me generously. Show me where and how to cheerfully give. Forgive me for my reluctant giving, my grudging giving and my selfish giving. Set me free to be a cheerful giver. Please make Your grace abound to me.

Song: Thank You Lord (feat. Lenise Morales) | Anchored Music
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OPkmRgZD9Yo>

Friday, June 28, 2024

Read: 2 Corinthians 9:8-11

Reflect: Our Father in heaven is generous in love, in grace, in care, and in giving. So abundant are His many blessings – the sun, moon and stars, the earth filled with food and wonders, our salvation in Christ plus the promises of the age to come. Our giving and tithing should be inspired by the Lord's generosity for He is the One can make us "rich in every way" not so we may be admired but that thanksgiving to God may increase.

Prayer: Lord what riches You have given to us here on earth. What treasures for heart, mind, soul, and body You give to us. I think of all the "riches" You have given me in my life: family, friends, belongings, and especially spiritual gifts and blessings. I pray for those who do not know Your riches: show Yourself to them that they might find all that they need in You. Scatter Your gifts among us so that we may experience Your Kingdom more and more. May Your Kingdom come!

Song: O Worship the King (Hymn)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tVs0VsJRyE0>

Saturday, June 29, 2024

Read Matthew 2:37 in preparation for tomorrow's sermon.

He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind."

It is said that we can discern a person's priorities by looking at their checkbook and their calendar. What do these say about your loves?

Sunday, June 30, 2024

Let's worship our God together!

Traditional worship at 9 am

Contemporary worship at 10:30 am

Both are livestreamed at FPCAmbler.org, YouTube, and Facebook.

FPCA welcomes you.



Monday, July 1, 2024

Read: Matthew 2:37 He said to him, ' "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind."

Reflect: Have you ever fallen in love after just one impactful encounter? Something clicks and you know you *must* get to know this person? This is a frequent movie theme and occasionally happens in real life. More often we get to know someone and as we do, love grows. Similarly, some people have a deep encounter with God that completely changes the trajectory of their lives. Others come to know God gradually and as they do, love grows. Either way, to love God we need to know him. The good news is that God's desires that we know him. Imagine! The God of all creation, the One who knows us deeply, wants *us* to know *him*. He reveals himself to us in Scripture---in fact Jesus *is* the Word of God. We find God in his Word in the beautiful story of God pursuing his people woven throughout the Bible, Genesis through Revelation. We remember that God so loved the world, so loved you and me, that he gave his only Son for us. We remember Jesus' words, "Do not be afraid," and "I will be with you until the end of the age." By the power of the Holy Spirit, we come to know his heart. How can we but love him?

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for revealing yourself to us by the power of your Holy Spirit, through the life of Jesus, the exact representation of God the Father, and through your living Word. Grow us to know you more and more and to live our lives in love for you above all.

Tuesday, July 2, 2024

Read: Matthew 22:37; 1 John 4:19 We love because he first loved us.

Reflect: We are enamored by tales of princes falling in love with lowly maids, princesses falling for frogs and beasts, and all manner of rags to riches stories. Imagine the most winsome, attractive person in the room catches your eye, comes over to you, and, says they have chosen **you** as their own to love and cherish. The apostle John tells us that we love because Jesus first loved us. Jesus sees you, at your best and at your worst, and loves you. He loves you because he loves you because he loves you. Is this not the best story ever? The King of kings and Lord of lords has chosen to love you, to live in you, walk with you, and give his life for you. May this sacrificial love lead us to humble awe and wonderment, to gratitude and joy, to love for our beautiful Savior who first loved us.

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for your great love for us, for letting us hear your voice call our name, for drawing our hearts to yours. May this love of yours lead us to love you with our all and overflow in love for others. May we grow in your love and give it away as generously as you gift it to us.

Wednesday, July 3, 2024

Read: Matthew 22:37 He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.”

Reflect: Who is this God we are called to love? In the Bible, names tell us a lot about the person. Call to mind the names and attributes of God. Start with the letter A and go through the alphabet, thinking of every name and description you can think of for God. For example, in ‘A’ alone we have Abba, Almighty, Alpha & Omega, Advocate, etc. As you consider the many names of God your heart will turn to worship. How wonderful is this God who loves us so! Let this worship lead us to love for God who is Creator, Compassionate, Counselor, and Caring.

Prayer: Lord, the more we know you, the more we consider who you are, the more we love you. We give thanks that you are our Rock, Redeemer, and Righteousness. Help us to love you with all we are and all we have. You are worthy.

Thursday, July 4, 2024

Read: Matthew 22:37

Reflect: On this day we celebrate our nation's independence, giving thanks for the freedom to practice our faith and to speak our minds without fear. Each and every day we are invited to live as citizens of another kingdom, the eternal kingdom of God. In God's kingdom we are truly free---free from fear as we trust God's plan, free from the power of sin as we seek to follow Jesus, free from shame as we receive God's grace and forgiveness. CS Lewis wrote, "God's compulsion is our liberation." God's compulsion is to love his rebellious people, to provide the way to save them and to give them hope and abundant life, both now and forever. We are invited into the kingdom not because of any good works but simply because God loves us. Jesus is the door to the kingdom, and he has opened it for all who love him. Will we surrender our hearts and lives to him completely? What joy to live in the kingdom of God! Rather than parades and fireworks, we respond by laying down our lives to the one who laid down his life for us.

Prayer: Lord, we thank you for the freedom we have in Christ. Help us to be good citizens in this land and to serve joyfully as citizens of your forever kingdom.

Friday, July 5, 2024

Read: Matthew 22:37

Reflect: While traveling through an airport recently, I encountered a bathroom attendant who exuded joy as she did her job. She called all the women who entered “Beautiful,” lifting their spirits. She anticipated each person’s needs, handing out paper towels and pointing out open stalls, all while singing along to the piped in music. There were no tips involved. I asked where her energy came from. She shrugged and said, “God?” Yes, God. When we love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength, it colors all of life. It changes how we do our work, connect with others, value his people. We are indeed “new creations,” and every day holds opportunities to enjoy his love and to share it with others. All our work becomes holy. How will your love for God shine today?

Prayer: Dear God, may your love shine through to those around us and may we do all we do as unto you (Colossians 3:23) enjoying your loving presence. Everything we have is from you and for you. We love you, Lord, and we thank you that you first loved us.



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A place where lives are changed by Christ
and we live out our faith together.

