



Daily Meditations

April 26 - May 1, 2021

The Biblical readings are taken from the Daily Office in the Book of Common Prayer for Year 2 and written by the St. Stephen's Meditation Writing Team: Dave Boyd, Jon Campbell, Becky Denton, Pat Gillory, Jay Nickel, Bob Reed, and Carroll Wilson.

Click on the scripture reading for each day to go directly to link. Current and past copies of the "Daily Meditations" may be found at: ststeve.org/daily-meditations

COLLECT: Fourth Sunday of Easter

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Patience

Monday, April 26, 2021

Colossians 1:1-14

"...may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light." - Colossians 1:11b-12

"Old age is not for sissies." I've lately come to realize the truth of that saying as I've lately encountered a string of health issues that remind me of my advancing age. But I have only to look at the Prayer Warrior list to remind myself that I have indeed been fortunate, while so many of our fellow parishioners have suffered far worse and have done so with grace and dignity. In the words of the Letter to the Colossians, I "must be prepared to endure everything with patience, while giving thanks to the Father...." Lord, give me patience and strength.

The Universal Christ

Tuesday, April 27, 2021

Colossians 1:15-23

"He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together." - I Thess 1:5a

The author of Colossians draws a wonderfully expansive picture of Christ. As Fr. Richard Rohr puts it in *The Universal Christ*, "Many are still praying and waiting for something that has already been given to us three times: first in creation; second in Jesus; and third in the ongoing beloved community (what Christians call the Body of Christ), which is slowly evolving throughout all of human history." It reminds us that we are all children of God...always have been, always will be. No matter how much we try to push God away, we belong to God, no matter what.

Brother, Have You Been Saved Yet?

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

I Colossians 1:24-2:7

"The mystery has been kept in the dark for a long time, but now it's out in the open...The mystery in a nutshell is just this: Christ is in you, therefore you can look forward to sharing in God's glory. It's that simple." - Colossians 1:25-27, The Message

The Message translation does a wonderful job of capturing the simplicity of God's plan of action through Christ. Or as my good friend the Lutheran pastor once put it in one of his most memorable sermons: "Don't worry about being saved! You've already been saved...now go live like it!"

Keeping it Simple

Thursday, April 29, 2021

Colossians 2:8-23

"My counsel for you is simple and straightforward: Just go ahead with what you've been given. You received Christ Jesus, the Master; now live him." - Colossians 2:8 The Message

There is an ancient church tradition that when the Apostle John was an old man living in Ephesus, he had to be carried into the church in the arms of his disciples. At these meetings, he could say no more than "little children, love one another!" After a time, his disciples wearied of always hearing the same words from John and asked him, "Master, why do you always say this?"

"It is the Lord's command," John replied. "And, if this alone be done, it is enough!"

That is the one great commandment of Jesus that we were reminded of on Maundy Thursday: Love one another!

Go Do It

Friday, April 30, 2021

Colossians 3:1-11

"So if you're serious about living this new resurrection life with Christ, act like it. - Colossians 3:1 The Message

The letter to the Colossians is an amazing piece of scripture. As we saw in Chapter 1, it contains the most grand and glorious vision of the Universal

Christ. Its concluding chapters contain the most simple and direct advice: if you want to live this new resurrection life with Christ, go do it! Easy to say, very difficult to do. That must be why we have Confession of Sin every Sunday!

Sing Your Hearts Out

Saturday, May 1, 2021

Colossians 3:12-18

"And sing, sing your hearts out to God!" - Colossians 3:1 The Message

I am so grateful to Fr. Kevin and all the folks involved in producing the weekly live streaming worship service. It has really helped keep us connected as the Body of Christ during this terrible pandemic. But as much as I love hearing Anne's beautiful singing each Sunday, this verse from Colossians reminds me how much I miss the joy of all of us singing together! Hopefully the time when we can do that again is coming soon.

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