

INSPIRED WORD

January 18, 2017

EXHORTATION

We have several prayer requests (burdens) in this Burden Basket which people in this parish have submitted for prayers. We will pray over these burdens, but as we prepare to do that, let's all take our burdens and concerns that we have in our hearts and minds and mentally place them too in this Burden Basket. Why do we do that? Because we want to free up ourselves, so that we can be open to praise our God whole-heartedly and give Him all the glory.

PRAYERS

Lord, we come before You tonight with open minds and hearts. You know the burdens that we each carry better than we know them ourselves. So we ask You, Lord, to take all of the burdens that we each have placed in this Burden Basket. We ask You, Lord, to take this basket from us and keep it with You, so that we do not think about them while we are here in Your holy Presence to give You praise, honor and glory.

SHARING

I received an email from Mel and Evelyn today. They wanted to be sure that we thank this prayer community for all of the money, books, games and school and craft supplies that were donated and which they took to Mexico on their mission trip. In the email Mel and Evelyn said that they have already made two trips to the store to purchase things that the school needed, and that is in addition to all of the things they took with them from here. So they give a heart-felt thank you to everyone here! They know that they are in our prayers and they wanted us to know that while we are here in this praise community, they will be praying for this community as well.

SHARING / EXHORTATION

Tonight is going to be a night of praise and worship, so we can honor and praise Him whole-heartedly with joy. Last week Denise gave us a beautiful teaching (sharing) on **“Thrive – We Were Meant to Thrive.”** Am I just surviving, or am I thriving? I thought about that a lot this week and I know that I wasn't the only one who thought about it. So did the Lord place anything on your hearts this week – anything or any area that He might want each of us to open up to Him? Did we respond to that with joy, or fear, or anxiety? It took me probably a day to get past the statement: ‘Am I just surviving, or am I thriving?’ It is difficult for me to say this because I honestly don't know. For me it is a day to day thing – some days it seems that one thing after another comes at me. So did last week's sharing by Denise touch anybody to that point? I know that it can be a difficult thing to do because it is very personal. So we will just say that if the Lord moves you during this prayer and praise meeting, please honor Him by sharing it if He had touched you this past week.

SCRIPTURE

Psalms 95: 1 – 3: Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord; cry out to the Rock of our salvation. Let us greet Him with a song of praise, joyfully sing out our psalms. For the Lord is a great God, the great King over all gods.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, we thank You for gathering us together here tonight and we ask for that gift of joy, that joy that comes from the knowledge of Your tremendous love for each and every one of us. Enable us, O Lord, to give to You all of our burdens of the day and week. Jesus, You know what each of them are and we trust that You have them under control. Help us to look to You tonight, to look into Your face of love tonight. Come, Holy Spirit, come, and release that gift of praise from among Your people here tonight. Glory to You!

SCRIPTURE

This is from the book of **Tobit** (a book from the **Deuterocanonicals / Apocrypha**), **Chapter 13: 1 – 15:** Then Tobit prayed: Blessed be God Who lives forever, because His kingdom lasts for all ages. For He scourges and then has mercy; He casts down to the depths of the netherworld, and He brings up from the great abyss. No one can escape His hand. Praise Him, you Israelites, before the Gentiles, for though He has scattered you among them, He has shown you His greatness even there. Exalt Him before every living being, because He is the Lord our God, our Father and God forever. He scourged you for your iniquities, but will again have mercy on you all. He will gather you from all the Gentiles among whom you have been scattered. When you turn back to Him with all your heart, to do what is right before Him, then He will turn back to you, and no longer hide His face from you. So now consider what He has done for you, and praise Him with full voice. Bless the Lord of righteousness, and exalt the King of the ages. In the land of my exile I praise Him, and show His power and majesty to a sinful nation. As for me, I exalt my God, and my spirit rejoices in the King of heaven. Let all men speak of His majesty, and sing His praises in Jerusalem. O Jerusalem, holy city, He scourged you for the works of your hands, but will again pity the children of the righteous. Praise the Lord for His goodness, and bless the King of the ages, so that His tent may be rebuilt in you with joy. May He gladden within you all who were captives; all who were ravaged may He cherish within you for all generations to come. A bright light will shine to all parts of the earth; many nations shall come to you from afar, and the inhabitants of all the limits of the earth, drawn to you by the name of the Lord God, bearing in their hands their gifts for the King of heaven. Every generation shall give joyful praise in you, and shall call you the chosen one through all ages forever. Accursed are all who speak a harsh word against you; accursed are all who destroy you and pull down your walls. And all who overthrow your towers, and set fire to your homes; but forever blessed are those who build you up. Go then, rejoice over the children of the righteous, who shall all be gathered together and shall bless the Lord of all ages. Happy are those who love you, and happy are those who rejoice in your prosperity. Happy are all who shall grieve over you, over all your chastisements, for they shall rejoice in You as they behold all your joy forever. My spirit blesses the Lord, the great King.

SCRIPTURE

Philippians 4: 4 – 7: Rejoice in the Lord always. I say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

PRAYER

What should we be concerned about? **Nothing!** Lord, we can say that truthfully because of Your promise that You are with us always, and that You are our Shepherd Who is guiding us. You walk with us through the brambles, through the mud out there, in the meadow and through the trees and forest. You walk with us down in the valleys, as well as up the mountains; You take care of us, You embrace us, You love us, You strengthen us, and You hear us. Jesus, as we are gathered here tonight, You are here with us; You are here to meet our needs; You are here to listen, and to love us as we open our hearts with love for You. So Jesus, we thank You! Jesus, we thank You!! Glory be to You, Lord! Thank You for that love that is beyond all understanding for each and every one of us, Lord!

SCRIPTURE

In **Matthew 6: Teaching about Prayer:** it says: “When you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father Who sees in secret will repay you.” And Jesus told the apostles, “This is how you are to pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and do not subject us to the final test, but deliver us from the evil one.” **(Verses 6, 9 – 13)** And **today** our prayer is: “Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”

SCRIPTURE

1 John 4: 7 – 13: Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love. In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent His only Son into the world so that we may have life through Him. In this is love; not that we have loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as expiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another. No one has ever seen God. Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us, and His love is brought to perfection in us. This is how we know that we remain in Him and He in us, that He has given us of His Spirit.

TONGUES

INTERPRETATION

(None heard clearly in the recording.)

WORD OF KNOWLEDGE / PROPHECY

Before we heard the message spoken in Tongues, I felt that Jesus wanted me to say this: "Someone here feels an appalling sadness, **an appalling sadness**. The Lord is calling out to you, 'Turn to Me, turn to Me!' That prophetic word that we just heard seems to usher in that sense of urgency that God is trying to reach out to you, to embrace you in your sadness, but you are not open to Him."

IMAGE / SENSE / SCRIPTURE / PROPHECY

When the word was spoken about someone crying out, it began to give me some structure. I have had this image for a while now and I don't understand it, so I am just going to give it. The image was of a tree, like an evergreen tree, and it was just standing there. My sense is that it was a Christmas tree and all the lights and decorations have been removed from the tree. The sense is that there is not a feeling of light anymore, but only a feeling of darkness. I sense that after the joy of Christmas season, for most people, there is a time in which we feel down and sad. But God wants us to know that His light resides in us, that it isn't the external light, though that is beautiful, but His light that never, ever, ever goes away from us. It is the light that we can bring into that darkness where maybe people are feeling that darkness. Then the Lord led me to this scripture in **Colossians 1: 9 – 14**: "Therefore, from the day we heard this, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from His glorious power, and 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. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of His beloved Son, in Whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." I hear the Lord saying to us, "**You are full of My light; never forget that My light shines in your heart! As you turn to Me, My Light shines on you, so that you may shine that light on others. Open up your hearts to receive that light, for you are more than an undecorated tree. You are the bearers of My light, My love and My grace.**"

PRAYER

Help us to say "Yes!" to You, Jesus! Come, Lord, You are a Light in the darkness; You are Light in the despondency, come, Lord! You are Light in the fear, You are Light in the rejection, come, Lord!

IMAGE / PROPHECY

I am seeing an image of someone who is digging their heels into the ground and they are trying to stop themselves from being pulled forward, as if someone is pulling them. The Lord is saying, "**Let go; stand up and let go!** Stand up and allow Me to love you! Come to Me and do not fear; do not be concerned about things of the past or the things that are going on now, allow Me to love you. **Do not resist, just allow Me to love you!** Even now I am concerned about every tear that falls from your eyes, even now I want to wipe them away. Even now I reach out to you, even now I make all thing new in you!"

PRAYER

Sometimes the Lord will touch you and you will know it, because you feel His touch. So Lord, You brought people here tonight who need a touch of Your grace or who need special prayer. So, Lord, I ask You to touch all of these people now who need special prayers tonight. Lord, touch them and let them know and feel Your touch deep within.

(Praying for the needs of people present here tonight.)

SCRIPTURE

John 5: 2 – 9: Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered porticoes. Here a great number of disabled people used to lie – the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, He asked him, “Do you want to get well?” “Sir,” the invalid replied, “I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me.” Then Jesus said to him, “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.” At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked. The day on which this took place was a Sabbath.

SUMMARY / PROPHECY

In the last part of the word that we heard tonight, the Lord asked us to do three things. He didn't just ask this of the people here who were asking for prayer, but He asked each one of us. He said, “Come to Me, do not fear, and allow Me to love you.” It is remarkable when we hear the God of the universe, being present here among us, saying to us, “Allow Me to love you!” It is the desire of His heart to love us. We heard a lot of words tonight that talked about the love of God and the light of God. But He is simply asking each one of us to come before Him and spend a few moments with Him, and that we are not to fear when we do that. He wants us to spend time with Him, to be in His Presence, and allow Him to love us with His tremendous love. We can't get caught up in thinking that God loves me only in the way that I can conceptualize the word 'love'. He is saying, “Allow Me to **love you** with every fiber of My being, with every blessing that I have, and with every grace that I can give. Allow Me to love you! Allow Me to reach out and touch you with My healing grace, with the blessings and the love that I want to give to each one of you.” Let's spend some time this week allowing God to do what the desire of His heart is for each one of us.