

Time Together

While We are Apart

Sunday, April 26, 2020



Good morning, dear church communities,

Our animal picture today features Charles, beloved poodle of Bob and Betsy Woods. Charles (whose full name is Charles Dickens) has always been a trendsetter, Bob notes, adding, “We now know why there’s a TP shortage. Charles is always out ahead of the latest fad.” Charles is one of the three toy poodles that live with Bob and Betsy. His companions have equally wonderful names, Carrie Bell and Jean Harlowe! Many thanks, Bob and Betsy, for sharing Charles with us!

I have found myself thinking lately of a boy at St. Christopher’s who said something that has stayed with me all these years, something both humorous and wise! This boy, let’s call him Henry, was in kindergarten, thus about five years old. Henry had a hard time seeing the positive in any day. He was anxious and often with a tummy ache to the nurse. One day, while the class was at recess, Henry came to his teacher and asked to go to the nurse. His teacher, knowing Henry, tried to distract him and get him involved in something fun, but quickly Henry returned. She felt his forehead and decided maybe he did feel a little warm, so she said she would walk him into the nurse. As they walked, they chatted a little. The teacher said, “I know it’s hard when you are not feeling 100%.” Henry, sighed with all his five years, and replied, “Mrs. Smith, I haven’t been 100% in years.”

Despite only being in kindergarten, Henry might just have a point. I keep thinking of him as I find, well.....I feel that I have not been 100% in, if not years, a long time! And I suspect that others might feel the same. As we reach the six-week mark in this time of pandemic, I find I can be a little irritable sometimes, I find I’m blue some days, and I get impatient more often.

At these Henry times I try to remind myself these are not easy times, and that I need to be patient and forgiving with myself, and even more with others! So, if you too have not felt 100% in awhile, remember Henry and give others a bit of room and forgiveness, and a bit for yourself too. We will get through this so strange time, and we will come through leaning on each other.

Now, onward to a little more, “Time Together.” Megan

Prayer Notes:

We will include our prayer lists in each Sunday Newsletter. Please continue to let us know of folks you would like to have on our prayer lists. Notes for this week:

- Chuck McGrath got home this past Wednesday! Home health nurse and PT will come to the house. Malena hopes with PT they can get him back on his feet. Please keep Chuck in your prayers, and prayers much needed too for Alexa and Malena.
- Nancy Brandon sends word that she has completed her cancer treatments! The days ahead will be time for healing and regaining of strength and energy. Please continue your prayers for Nancy.
- Our healthcare workers are on all our hearts. Please keep them, and their families, in your prayers.
- Dee Whichard, a member of Grace Church, a well-known quilter who led the group that met at Trinity, and an all-around wonderful person, died this past Thursday, April 23rd. Dee had been sick for a little less than two weeks, with an infection that was first thought to be COVID, but two tests were negative. Please keep Dee's husband Eddy, and all their family in your prayers in this time of deep grief.

Please join me in this prayer for those who have died recently:

*Father of all, we pray to you for Cathy McCleery, Craig Smith, and Dee Whichard, and for all those whom we love but see no longer. Grant to them eternal rest. Let light perpetual shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
Amen.*

Prayer Lists:

St. Mary's Whitechapel: Don DeFilippo, George Clowser, Sherry Mann, Susan Goff, Jori Keckman, Nancy Brandon, Ron Okrasinski, Sally Flanigan, Alexa Frisbee, R. W. Courtney, Tammy, Dorsey Ficklin, Glenn Courtney, Terry Thompson, Wendy Burnett, Nora Pennell, Lin Greene, Jake Cobb, Dave Petersen, Dan Ficklin, Marie Beringer, Donna Alexander, Rose, Cecil Courtney, Mimi Chace, Donna Brayton, Hilda Courtney, Robert, Howard Hanchey, Jennifer Cassell Cole, Karen Woodruff, Roger Fortin, Wier Harman, Gina Adams, Brad Quillen, Jessica, Joanne and Michael.

Nursing Home Resident: Lancashire - Mary Sue Courtney

Armed Forces: Joshua Green, Aimee Budzinski, Mark Medina, Kathryn McCormack Akacem, Mehdi Akacem, Anderson Sale, Thomas Mackie, Pia Mackie, Tate Young, Spencer Fortin.

Trinity: Omid, Nancy Clark, Vicki Simmons Watson, Jerry Gregor, Susan Goff, Janice Shanks, Sherri Carter, Terri, Nick Slaughter, Fran and Dick Davis, Sally Flanigan, R. W. Courtney, Frances Bush, Delford Walthall, Glenn Courtney, Barbara Nunnery, Keith Elswick, Fred Eddowes, Steve, Rick Bateman, Jenny Dunaway, Earline Tomlin Kelley, Ed Borer, Dean Haine, Donna Alexander, Mary and Karen Jackson, Cecil Courtney, Berkeley Kellum, Wendy Boswell, Preston Bryant, Michael, Mel and Frances Ercelino, Hilda Courtney, Robert, Karen Woodruff, Joey Coker, Michael Dunaway, J.W. Boone, Brad Quillen, Ian Larmore, Brandon Dunaway.

Armed Forces: Giovanni Elhordoy, Ward Gavin, Paul Price and Michael Stout.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Pray for St. Paul's on the Hill, Winchester; St. Paul's, Alexandria.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Pray for the Church of Ireland.

Announcements:

“Zooming Coffee Hour” will meet today at 3pm! Text, call, or email me if you want to join us, and I’ll send you the invitation this afternoon. (My cell number is 804-477-5515.) And if you would like to join us, but are not signed up for Zoom, Ellen Tracey from Trinity and Sharon and Richard Gill from SMWC are willing to help anyone get on Zoom. Ellen can be contacted at: 804-436-2371 and The Gills can be reached at: 804-462-9939.

For the season of Easter, I will be posting a video each Sunday, focused on the Gospel for the week. The videos will be available on the Trinity website and on our Facebook pages.

Washington National Cathedral continues to offer beautiful and moving worship daily. They can be found at cathedral.org

Please let me know if you are in need of help with getting groceries or other necessities. Call, text, or email and I’ll connect you with a volunteer.

Many thanks for continuing to pay your pledges as you are able in these difficult financial times. And many thanks to those who have been able to donate to the Rector’s Discretionary Funds.

You can continue to mail pledges and donations to Rector’s Discretionary Fund to each church:

Trinity Church
PO Box 208
Lancaster, VA 22503

SMWC
5940 Whitechapel Rd
Lancaster, VA 22503



Thoughts from the Organ Bench

Song History: “It Is Well With My Soul”

“**It Is Well With My Soul**” is a hymn written by **Horatio Gates Spafford**, a prominent American lawyer, Presbyterian church elder and hymnist, following tragic events in his life. This is one of my favorites and probably a favorite of many people. Horatio Spafford was married to Anna Larsen from Norway. Aside from being a prominent lawyer, he and his wife were also close friends of evangelist Dwight Moody. The Spaffords were quite popular in Chicago in the 1860’s but they were no strangers to tragedy. They invested in real estate, north of the city. However, this was taken away from them during the Great Fire of Chicago in 1871. Prior to the great fire that same year, the Spaffords suffered the loss of their four-year-old son to scarlet fever.

In a desire to give his family a time to rest, they planned a trip to Europe. However, due to an unexpected business need, Horatio needed to stay behind for a few days while his wife and four daughters sailed ahead via the French ocean liner, **Ville du Havre**, on November 21, 1873.

Four days after the ship departed crossing the Atlantic, it collided with a sea vessel, the Loch Earn. It was reported that Anna took their daughters to the deck where they knelt and prayed to God for their life to be spared. The ship sank in 12 minutes carrying with it 226 passengers, including Horatio and Anna’s children. Unfortunately, only Anna survived among his family. The rescue brought Anna to Cardiff, Wales after nine days. She sent a telegram to her husband saying, “Saved alone, what shall I do?” Not long after Horatio sailed out to join his grieving wife. As he passed near where his daughters died, he penned “It Is Well With My Soul.”

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Horatio and Anna later had three more children. After the birth of their youngest daughter, they moved to Jerusalem where they devoted their lives to philanthropic work among the people, regardless of their religious affiliation. Because of this, they gained the respect and trust of the Muslim, Jewish and Christian communities. Four days before his 60th birthday, Horatio Spafford succumbed to malaria on October 16, 1888 and was buried in Mount Zion Cemetery in Jerusalem. **Philip Bliss** composed the music of “It Is Well With My Soul” and called the tune “Ville du Havre.” The song was published in Gospel Songs No. 2 by Sankey and Bliss in 1876.

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Lyrics to “It Is Well With My Soul”

By Horatio G. Spafford

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Refrain:

It is well with my soul,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

My sin—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!—
My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

For me, be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live:
If Jordan above me shall roll,
No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life
Thou wilt whisper Thy peace to my soul.

But, Lord, 'tis for Thee, for Thy coming we wait,
The sky, not the grave, is our goal;
Oh, trump of the angel! Oh, voice of the Lord!
Blessed hope, blessed rest of my soul!

And Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,
Even so, it is well with my soul.

Please enjoy this video of Wintley Phipps singing “It is Well With My Soul.” (Click below or copy and paste this link into your browser.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E8HffdyLdoc>

Source: Wikipedia.com

Reflection

Our Gospel lesson for today, the 3rd Sunday of Easter, comes from Luke, and tells the story of two followers of Jesus, heading home on that same Sunday when the women went to the tomb at dawn, and the men had been hiding behind locked doors..... These two men, not among the twelve, but among the many followers of Jesus, are heading home now to the village of Emmaus. All their hopes had been in Jesus, who they had seen crucified just two days before. The walk was about seven miles, and they walked slowly, deep in conversation, as we all do after a tragic death and an ending of dreams.....We need to talk over what has happened, both to make it more real and to begin to accept it.

The roads were crowded as the Passover Festival had just ended in Jerusalem and many were traveling home. As the two walked, a stranger walked along with them and eventually entered their conversation, asking, “What are you talking about to each other, as you walk along?” And so the two began to tell the stranger all about Jesus, his preaching and healings, his death on the cross, and the word from the women of the empty tomb.....They shared their grief and questions, their hopes and their resignation, all with the stranger.

The stranger turns out to be Jesus, but they cannot recognize him, and thus the stranger walked and talked with them all the way to Emmaus....They arrived just as darkness was falling, and the stranger made to walk on, but they called out to him and invited him to their home so he could share a meal and stay the night. They said to the stranger: “Stay with us; the day is almost over and it is getting dark.” And so, the stranger comes in and they gather a bit of food for a meal. When the stranger lifts the bread and breaks it, finally, the two can see Jesus, they can recognize him. And suddenly they are no longer hopeless or resigned...They are full of energy, and hope, and they run the seven miles back to Jerusalem! They go to tell the others the good news, “The Lord is risen indeed!”

Our collect for today reads: *O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

Though we cannot gather right now to share the bread and the wine, this prayer reminds us that the bread is never an end in itself. The bread always points us onward to look for how “... *the eyes of our faith..... may behold him in all his redeeming work...*” Our call is to look for Jesus in his redeeming work, to recognize him in those places we know so well:

*“I was hungry and you fed me,
I was thirsty and you gave me a drink,
I was homeless and you gave me a room,
I was shivering and you gave me clothes,
I was sick and you stopped to visit,
I was in prison and you came to me.” (Matthew 25: 35-37)*

And when we open our eyes to find Jesus in those redeeming places, we are invited, called, to join him there.

Amen.

