

Time Together While We are Apart

Sunday, May 10, 2020

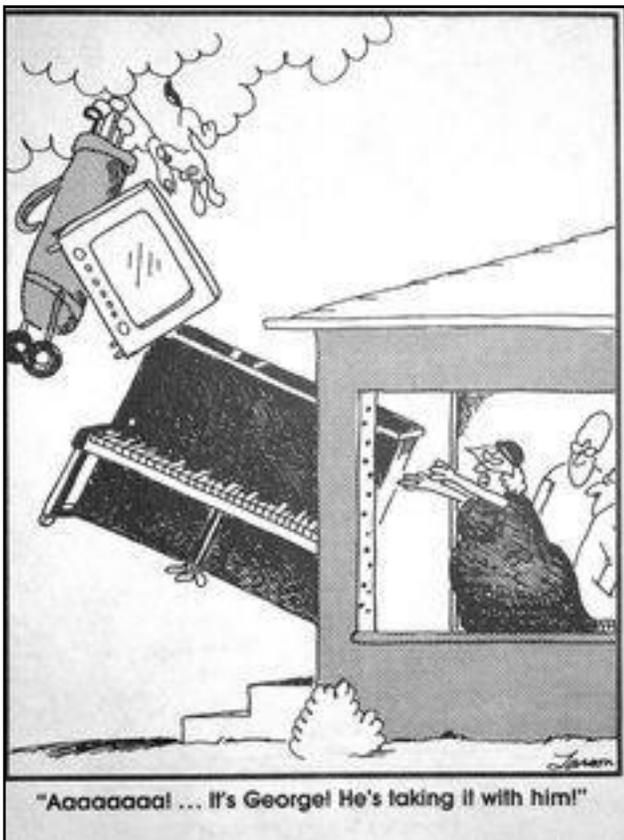
Good morning, dear church communities,

Our featured pet this week is from the fowl category; I thought it would be nice to have a change from the dogs, which we love deeply, but a bit of variety is good for us! So, I immediately thought of the menagerie that lives at Glenn and Brad's house, and in their backyard! They have dogs, cats, and a number of chickens. This chicken is Glenn's favorite; she likes to be held (many of the chickens do not!) and petted. Her name is Shirley and she is a Polish breed, small in size. And yes, she has a sister named Laverne, and lives with other chickens named Lucy and Ethel! Glenn and Brad have only one rooster and his name is Ringo. He was rescued from Gloucester-

Mathews Humane Society. At the time they had four roosters up for adoption, named, of course, John, Paul, George and Ringo. Many thanks, Glenn and Brad, for sharing Shirley with us today, and your wonderfully creative pet names!

In the Newsletter this past Wednesday, I wrote about the opportunity we all have in this time of pandemic to help our families and friends by writing down our wishes for our funerals. I wrote about a favorite death-themed Far Side cartoon of mine. I could not find a copy of it, so subbed another Far Side cartoon about heaven. I should have called one of my internet

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experts, as Ellen Tracey found the cartoon I wanted in about two minutes! So that cartoon is seen here; many thanks, Ellen! And while we are contemplating if we can, indeed, take it with us, or not....Louise Mohardt (SMWC) wrote with the excellent reminder that another gift we can give our loved ones, and ourselves, is to establish our Living Wills.

You may, like me, get a bit confused about all the terms, so to clarify, a Living Will is the same as an Advance Directive, both of which are documents that indicate your medical wishes in the event you are incapacitated or cannot consent to your health care treatment. Louise, a retired nurse, suggested this website as a good place to start the process: <http://www.virginiaadvancedirectives.org/forms-1.html>
Many thanks, Louise!

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:

- Randy Romaine (SMWC) is having rotator cuff surgery, to repair the torn cuff and tendons, this Wednesday, May 13th. Randy sustained this injury while cutting trees, just before the Stay at Home order began and non-emergency surgeries were halted. So, he is eager to finally have this surgery and is hoping for much relief from the pain of the injury. Please keep Randy, and his wife Gloria, in your prayers, especially on Wednesday at 12:30pm.
- On Wednesday our Prayer Notes included Ian Larmore, grandson to part-time Trinity members, Bob and Nancy Larmore. I am glad to report that Ian is out of the hospital and home again, with a pic line replacing his port, the site of the infection that put him in the hospital. Please continue prayers for Ian, and his family, as he works to understand and adjust to this change.
- Chuck McGrath is slowly improving. Malena reports that Chuck can sit up bit in bed now, and can almost stand! His birthday is coming up on May 17th, and I believe he is turning 95! If you would like to send him a birthday card, the address is: P.O. Box 370, Irvington VA 22480. Please continue your prayers for Chuck and his family.
- Our healthcare workers are on all our hearts. Please keep them, and their families, in your prayers.

Prayer Lists:

St. Mary's Whitechapel: Chuck McGrath, 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, 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. Peter's, Arlington; St. Mary's, Goochland; St. John's, Centerville.

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

Announcements:

“Zooming Coffee Hour” is held today, Sunday, at 3pm; all are welcome! Text, call or email me if you want to join us, and I’ll put you on the list to receive the Zoom invitation each week. Once you sign up you are on the list and can come any Sunday that suits you. (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 your donations to the Discretionary Funds. This week we helped individuals through The Link who are impacted by the COVID-19 virus. A small business owner, a waitress, and a daycare worker had all lost hours of work due to the virus and needed help with bills that are piling up. 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

“**His Eye Is on the Sparrow**” is a Gospel hymn written in 1905 by lyricist Civilla D. Martin and composer Charles H. Gabriel. It is one of my favorites. It is most associated with actress-singer Ethel Waters who used the title for her autobiography. Mahalia Jackson's recording of the song was honored with the Grammy Hall of Fame Award in 2010.

The theme of the song is inspired by the words of David in the Psalms and Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew: "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye (Psalm 32:8). "Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?" (Matthew 6:26) and "Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows" (Matthew 10:29–31).

Civilla Martin, who wrote the lyrics, said of her inspiration to write the song based on the scriptures: “Early in the spring of 1905, my husband and I were sojourning in Elmira, New York. We became close friends with a couple by the name of Mr. and Mrs. Doolittle—true saints of God. Mrs. Doolittle had been bedridden for nigh twenty years. Her husband had a disability and had to use a wheelchair to get to and from his business. Despite their afflictions, they lived happy Christian lives, bringing inspiration and comfort to all who knew them. One day while we were visiting with the Doolittles, my husband commented on their bright hopefulness and asked them for the secret of it. Mrs. Doolittle's reply was simple: ‘His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.’ The beauty of this simple expression of boundless faith gripped the hearts and fired the imagination of Dr. Martin and me.” The hymn "His Eye Is on the Sparrow" was the outcome of that experience.

Enjoy these interpretations of this lovely gospel hymn: the first by Ethel Waters only; the second by Miss Waters and other artists.

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ny5zmN7lGsU>

Source: [Wikipedia.com](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/His_Eye_Is_on_the_Sparrow)

Reflection

On this fifth Sunday in the season of Easter, we reflect on one more story of a post-resurrection appearance by Jesus. This story also reveals again the so human, so familiar quality of Peter and his friends. The disciples can seem now, 2000 years past, to be well..... saints! They are, of course, saints, but we must not lose track of how, despite 2000+ years, Peter and all of those close friends of Jesus were as human as you and me. This story, from the last chapter of the Gospel of John (John 21: 1-14), takes place more than a week after the resurrection. Jesus has appeared and disappeared to his friends, coming through locked doors, appearing to be a gardener, walking along with them on the road to Emmaus. His friends are filled with hope from these appearances, but are also bewildered as to what they are to do now. And so, when things are strange and we do not know what to do..... doing something familiar can be a great comfort, something familiar can ground us. So, Peter, says to the others, "I am going fishing." Not all of the disciples were fishermen, but several were, before their lives changed so dramatically when Jesus called them to join him, to follow him. Now, three years since they left their nets, Peter yearns for something he knows how to do, and so they go fishing.

After a long night, they head to shore with empty nets and spirits low. Even the familiar seems to have not helped in this oh so strange time. But then a man on the shore does what everyone does to fishermen..... gives advice on where they should have fished. The man suggests the right side of the boat, and doubtless with rolled eyes, Peter and his friends throw the net one more time.... And the net comes up so full it is close to breaking. Suddenly they realize it is Jesus and charge towards shore, where they find Jesus, with a fire built, saying, "Come and have breakfast." (John 21:12)

And so, the familiar, the ordinary, the everyday led them again to Jesus, to a sunrise, a fire, bread and fish. Jesus was not separate from their familiar but still within their familiar. In many ways this story echoes much of Celtic spirituality in finding the holy, finding God not only in the cathedral, not only in the words, not

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only in the worship, but to find God too and often in creation and in the everyday..... sunrise, fire, bread, and fish.... and Jesus invites us to be with him there.

We yearn in this time of pandemic to return to our beloved churches, spaces that hold the beauty of God for us and the riches of memories, for some for generations, within those four walls. But we must be careful in our yearning for our churches, to remember we are called to worship, not our church buildings, but to worship our God. And though this time of pandemic is oh so strange and often upsetting, God is working in our midst, including perhaps a reminder that God is in church, but so much more often, God too is in our everyday lives... in sunrise, fire, bread, and fish.... and Jesus invites us to be with him there.

Amen.

