

Time Together

While We are Apart

Sunday, May 24, 2020



Good morning, dear church communities,

Our animal today is our second dog, Autumn. Autumn is an Akita/German Shepherd mix and about 70 pounds. We adopted her from the Gloucester/Mathews Humane Society two years ago. Autumn is a senior dog; we adopted her when she was ten years old. She had been put up for adoption with three other dogs, all turned in by a family that could not keep them anymore. Autumn was in good shape when she came to live with us, at a healthy weight, with a beautiful coat, and a sweet disposition with humans and other dogs. Bix gave her the cold shoulder for one day, and then decided he loved her and now begs her to play every day. The only problem Autumn had was itchy and often infected ears. We have been deeply blessed by the Hartfield Animal Hospital, especially Dr. Dallas Thompson, who looked at Autumn's ears and realized they were not infected but were a symptom of severe food allergies. After starting a new diet, Autumn has changed into a dog seemingly much younger than her advanced years. Her ears are finally healthy, and she is much more energetic, much more opinionated, and now loves to dance,

especially if the treat cabinet door is left open! We are so grateful for the blessing of Autumn in our lives.

And 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 had rotator cuff surgery and is coming along in the healing process. Please keep Randy, and his wife Gloria, in your prayers.
- Chuck McGrath 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.

On this Memorial Day weekend, let us join together in prayer:

“All Powerful God, we honor today those men and women— sons and daughters, husbands and wives, fathers, brothers, sisters, mothers— who have laid down their life for their country. Whether weary or emboldened, quiet or defiant, vulnerable or ready when you called them home, their sacrifice is too humbling for words except these uttered in prayer. Loving Lord, bless them forever in Your eternal peace... Cherish their spirit, honor their commitment, send them our love, and may we never forget the service that they gave. in Christ’s name we pray, Amen.”

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 students, faculty, and administrators at Diocesan Church Schools: Christchurch, St. Catherine’s, St. Christopher’s, St. Margaret’s, St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes, Stuart Hall.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Pray for all members of the Anglican Communion around the world.

Announcements:

I am on vacation this week through today, Sunday, May 24th. Zoom Coffee Hour will still happen today, Sunday, May 24th; Ellen Tracey has kindly agreed to send the invitations. I will be in town and available for pastoral emergencies, but if you need other help, you may contact Paula at her email address: stmarys.whitechapel@gmail.com and at her cell: 804-221-5562, as the office remains closed. You may also contact your Wardens as needed.

I need a few more animal pictures for our Time Together Newsletter! So, if you have been meaning to send me a photo of your beloved pet, please email or text. We all enjoy meeting them.

The Scholarship Committee at SMWC announces that their deadline for applications has been extended until May 29th. More information, including guidelines and forms, is available on the SMWC website: stmaryswhitechapel.org.

“Zooming Coffee Hour” is held every 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.

The season of Easter ends next Sunday, May 31st when we celebrate The Day of Pentecost. The Lord willing, we will have our first Zoom worship service on Pentecost! More details in the Wednesday Newsletter!

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.

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

"Let There Be Peace on Earth" is a song written by Jill Jackson-Miller and Sy Miller in 1955. It was initially written for and sung by the International Children's Choir created by Easter Beakly and Arthur Granger of the Granger Dance Academy in Long Beach, California. The song's composers led a number of rehearsals for the children's choir from 1955 to 1957, and the song continues to be the theme for this group of children who represent a host of nations and who sang in Washington, DC at the JW Marriott next to the White House in 2002.

Jackson-Miller, who had been suicidal after the failure of her marriage to screenwriter Felix Jackson, later said that she wrote the song after discovering what she called the "life-saving joy of God's peace and unconditional love."

The song is performed worldwide throughout the year, and particularly during the Christmas season, which has led to it being considered a Christmas song. It is included in the hymnals of a variety of Christian denominations, and is used in worship services even by a number of denominations that do not include it in their hymnals. It typically concludes Unity Church services each week.

The original lyrics for "Let There Be Peace on Earth" have been altered on many occasions for differing reasons, including for gender neutrality (where "father" is replaced with "creator," and "brother" is replaced with "family" or "each other"), and secularity (where "God as our Father" is replaced with "Earth as our Mother" or "love as our compass"). Both the gender-neutral and secular alternate lyrics have been copyrighted by the original licensing agent of the song.

(continued next page)

These are the original lyrics:

*Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth
The peace that was meant to be.
With God as our Father
Brothers all are we.
Let me walk with my brother
In perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me
Let this be the moment now.
With every step I take
Let this be my solemn vow.
To take each moment
And live each moment
With peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth,
And let it begin with me.*

- In 1967, Mahalia Jackson sang "Let There Be Peace on Earth" at her concert in Berlin.
- In 1993, the song was covered by American country music singer Vince Gill and his daughter Jenny, as the title single for his platinum-selling Christmas album.
- It is the final song during the holidays each year during the "IllumiNations: Reflections of Earth" firework show at Epcot at the Walt Disney World Resort in Florida. It previously featured narration by Walter Cronkite and singing by Sandi Patti and the Harlem Boys Choir.
- The song was performed by the Young People's Chorus of New York City on September 25, 2015 at the close of the Interfaith Prayer Service and Remembrance, presided over by Pope Francis, at Ground Zero in New York.
- In 2017 Carlos Santana and Ernie/Ronnie Isley released the song on their Power of Peace album, which arrived on July 28 from Sony Music's Legacy Recordings.

I hope you will enjoy these two performances:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=525oqP3ioW4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F4prw48qLbY>

Source: Wikipedia.com

: <https://www.bayviewbiblechurch.org/post/the-story-behind-be-thou-my-vision>

Reflection

I subscribe to a daily devotional offered by the United Church of Christ (UCC) called Still Speaking, referring to God still speaking in our lives today. The authors are a wide variety of clergy and laity in the UCC. Our reflection today comes from The Rev. John Edgerton, who services as lead pastor at First United Church of Oak Park, Illinois. His reflection is entitled, “Wait... How Long?”, and reflects on the story of Noah in Genesis 7: 11-12.

In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, on the seventeenth day of the second month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. The rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights. - Genesis 7:11-12 (NIV)

Forty days is a good, solid, biblical number. It signifies completeness, totality. It is time fulfilled. For it to rain for forty days means it well and truly rained for as long as one could imagine.

But here’s the part of the story that I forgot from Sunday School: exactly how long Noah and his family had to stay in the ark. Hint: it’s a lot longer than 40 days.

“And the waters swelled on the earth for one hundred fifty days.” (Genesis 7:24, NIV)

Yup, 150 days. That’s how long Noah and his family were sequestered in the ark, forced by calamity to withdraw from the world with no human company but one another. If 40 days signifies completeness of time, then 150 days signifies ... way too stinkin’ long of a time. No longer symbolic, no longer cute, no longer novel.

Just way ... too ... long.

(Continued next page)

As those first 40 days and nights came to a close and the rain stopped, Noah and his family must have felt thrilled. With the worst of the danger passed, they must have been itching to end their confinement.

But that's not what happened. It dragged on and on.

The story of humanity's deliverance from global devastation is a story of counting days and losing track of days. It is a story of thinking the worst is over, only to find it's just begun.

It is a story I am holding on to today, because it means I am not the first child of God to feel the way I am feeling.

Prayer

God of the endless march of days, be with me in these hard times.