

GREETING TO THE CHILDREN: Sunday, February 22, 1981

GREETING I'd like to welcome the boys and girls of our Sunday School who have joined us down here - in the front - for a few moments this morning. It's good to see you all again.

Today is George Washington's birthday and seeing you all down here in the front of our Church reminds me of something I once read about George Washington. As you know, he was a very busy man...a great leader of our country, a general and later on the first President. He was a man of great integrity....they use to tell me when I was your age that Washington never told a lie.

He always tried to be in Church on a Sunday morning and he always made a point of sitting up front....straight and tall....in either the first or the second row...as you have this morning. He felt it was important that people know he was in Church...he wanted them to know how he felt about God, and the Church, and the Bible and the teachings of Jesus...that's why he chose to sit up front...straight and tall...so others would know he was there.

It was up front for George Washington...where the action was...where he could hear every word and full participate. Good thought to remember as we pause to think about Washington today, on this his birthday. "Straight and tall"up front....a great leader of our country.

TODAY Yesterday, one of the leaders of our Sunday School celebrated a birthday...a lady who has had good and positive influence on our Sunday and all that's happened to it in the last six years.

Who had a birthday yesterday? Mrs. Nespole and today, both she and Miss Janet Ernst, boys and girls, are officially completing their responsibilities as leaders of our Sunday School Program. For six years, Mrs. Nespole has served as Chairman of our Education Committee. For three years, Miss Ernst has served as Sunday School Superintendent. Both of these young ladies have worked long and hard to make some good things happen in our Sunday School and they deserve our thanks.

And so, today, we pause in our service - with all of the children here who have benefited from their labors of love - to say "thank you". Many hours of teaching and typing, caring and doing, telephoning and organizing, raising money for camp, for Bibles, for robes...so many things....we say "thank you" and God bless you.

I'd like to present Mrs. Nespole and Miss Ernst with a rose...it's but a token of our appreciation and our affection....it comes from the boys and girls of the Sunday School. Mr. William Bell, the new Chairman of the Education Committee, has the roses over here and we'll do this together.

YOUTH CHOIR This morning our Youth Choir is going to sing "Jesus Loves Me", and it's a new arrangement of an old hymn that many of us learned in Sunday School....and the boys and girls are dedicating this to Mrs. Nespole and Miss Ernst without whose support the Youth Choir could not have happened.

AFTER THE CHOIR SINGS

Thank you boys and girls. That's a lovely way to express your feelings of gratitude to these two wonderful people whose lives have blessed all of us.

Now.....to continue our worship.....the younger children are going to head out, and the older children are staying in.....Let's all join in singing the first and the last verse of No. 223 - "When we Walk With the Lord".....and the young children can "walk out with Jesus" to the 4th verse.

INTRODUCTION

The week of toil has ended. The day of rest is at hand. May the rest and the quiet of this hour of worship refresh our inner life. May it renew in all of us a sense of God's holy and abiding Presence.

In silence, let each now pray as the heart may prompt.

MEDITATION

We rest our hearts in the Promise of Jesus who said:

"Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me, for My yoke is easy and My burden is light!"

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; who redeemeth thy life from destruction."

"Wait on the Lord. Be of good courage and He shall strengthen thine heart."

"They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary. And they shall walk and not faint."

"For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty, and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you clothed me. As you did it to one of the least of these, my brethren, you did it unto me."

"Ask, and it will be given you. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and it will be opened to you".

"And all things...whatsoever you shall ask in prayer, believing...you shall receive. And as many as touched Him were made whole."

PRAYERS / LORD'S PRAYER

O Thou, who hearest prayer, hear our prayers for others, as well as for ourselves.

Touch with healing, O God, those whom we mention in our prayers this hour:

Helen Breit. Martha Rose Anderson. Matilda Bernard

Cherished members and friends of this congregation...

(over)

.....cherished members and friends of our parish.

Comfort the bereaved and the broken-hearted among us. Abide among us as a healing benediction.

In the name of Jesus Christ, I share with you the Good News:

We are forgiven!

Will you all pray with me for:

Grant them courage and hope.
Make them receptive to the
touch of the Holy Spirit.

Answer the unspoken prayers offered to thee on the altars of our hearts, spoken in the name and spirit of Jesus who taught us to say when we pray:

"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.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen."