

PASTORAL PRAYER: June 14, 1981

Lord, we resist being reminded of our condition....

But deep down we know that we keep falling short of our good intentions.
Even though we have heard many times that "love is the answer" to our problems, we keep slipping back into those little ruts of selfishness.
And even though we know it's best "to live one day at a time", we keep worrying about tomorrow and what it may bring.
Even though we know it is better to listen when others speak, we keep falling back into the posture of defensiveness and find ourselves striking back with cutting words.

Lord, this is why we come to Church and here bare our souls and confess our needs and our sins to You.

We need to be reminded that in mercy You reach down and help us get back on our feet.
We need to be assured that what we have done is forgiven, because You never seem to give up on any of us...no matter what.
We need to affirm our faith in You and in each other.
We need to be told that even in the greater game of life, we can "come back"; that we can be born again.

Come among us, Lord, in our worship. Speak to each of us in these moments. Make us sensitive to Your presence. Minister to our individual needs.

If we need to be challenged, come and upset those comfortable ways we have slipped in to.
If we need to be healed where we hurt, come gently and restore to us a healthy mind and a trusting, wholesome spirit.

And then, Lord, turn us around.

Turn us out to minister to the needs of others, even as you minister to us through others.

Enable us to be unafraid in confronting that which is wrong, and to challenge comfortable and selfish patterns.
Grant us the courage to change what can be changed.
Teach us how to deal with those around us - in the spirit of Christ - especially those hurting in body, mind or spirit.

THEN,

Surround us with Your spirit. Surprise us with your joy. Strengthen us in Your Word. Speak through him who brings the sermon. And send us forth from here with Your love at work in our hearts.

All of this, in the name and spirit of Jesus Christ, in whom we see life's highest hopes and its deepest meaning.

CHORAL AMEN.

CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATION

TODAY Today we're celebrating a "mini" Children's Day here in our Church... recognizing both the boys and girls and all those who have had a part in the Sunday School program. It's been a good year and let me tell you about it.

We've had a fine number of children attending Sunday School each Sunday morning since last September....some Sundays we've had as many as 40 boys and girls here....and about 20 different teachers along the way....last Fall.

Our Sunday Nursery program for infants and toddlers under the guidance of Roberta Lane Garner and about 15 different helpers has prospered. We can have any where from 2 - 10 infants and toddlers here on Sundays.

We've also had about ten to twelve children - (teen-agers) involved in a Methodist Youth Fellowship program under the guidance of Avion Brooks and George Leopold with an assist from Sandra VanCleve at the time of the Talent night.

We have 12 children now getting ready to head off to summer church camp...Camp Quinipet....and our thanks to William Bell for heading up that area these past four months. We've made it possible through \$2,000 given to the Methodist Cap Service since last November for 20 children in Harlem to have a chance for a week away at at Camp Olmstead. Janet Ernst has lead us here.

Our youth choir has sung well, and represented us at the District Meeting at Christ Church....with about 20 participants...and new robes were also added....and our thanks to Mary Lou Risley and Susan Lynn Brown for their direction at this point. Christmas pageant of Decmeber...

It's been a busy year....and a good year and we would like to thank all of the adults who have shared in any way in this program...the Eeucation Committee under the leadership of William Bell would like to present a carnation to each of you who have participated. It's a token of our love and our appreciation. Would you stand and if you're close enough to the front I'll present it to you. If not, come forward....or if you're shy about it....we'll give it to you at the conclusion of the service.

READINGS Now we're going to have some reading by the children, and this in turn will be followed by an anthem by the Youth Choir and then one of the teen-agers, Miriam Sianga, will read the scripture lresson later on.

DEPARTURE: One verse of #149 - "I Love to Tell the Story" . As Mr. Woodside plays it through, I'd like to present a carnation to the children.

Thank you all for a great year in the Christian Education program...the best ever....and have a good rest this Summer...plan to come to the picnic, and we'll be in touch with you in late August, early September for another assignment.

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:

x "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".

x "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:

(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."

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Sunday, June 14, 1981

GREETING We take this moment to greet the visitors who worship with us this morning. We're delighted and pleased to have you with us and do hope that the opportunity will be ours to greet you in a more personal way following the service - either at the door or downstairs in the Russell Room where punch and cookies will be served.

Be free in the sharing of your name with us. Sign one of the Guest Book or visitors cards in the pews. Join us on other Sundays in our worship. You worship in a church that has been ministering in the name of Christ since 1837; it is a church with a fine record of giving and of serving and it is in His name that we today bid you welcome.

CONCERNS I have a number of concerns to touch upon briefly.

First, be sure to pick up a copy of the June issue of "A Word In Edgeways". Copies are in the usual places.

Second, tickets will be on sale again this morning for the All-Church Picnic of this coming Saturday, June 20th. It's going to be a lovely day together....at the Willow Lake Family Center. Janet Ernst, I recall, is handling the tickets at today's coffee hour. We have room for 100 on the bus and have sold about 60. There's still room.

Third, an additional word regarding today's altar flowers. Given by Mildred Schroedel, they are in loving memory of her son, John O. Schroedel, with a salute to his children who are so thoughtful and giving to their grandmother. And belatedly, Happy Birthday to Mrs. Schroedel, June 12th.

Fourth, note the word regarding the informal meeting of all who are interested in a trip to the Holy Land. We'll meet today at 12:45 in the choir room (south end of Russell Room) for about 45 minutes.

Fifth, the NY Conference of the United Methodist Church is in session this week. It adjourns this afternoon. Thursday and Friday were good days at the Conference. We had a nice number of our people there: Joyce Veenstra, Shiro Oda (still there) - our Lay Representatives. Deaconesses: Ruth Frame and Chris Brewer were both there. Edward Brown, Paul and Helen Russell also there. ~~The appointments will be read this afternoon and as far as I know, the schedule is to be re-appointed....it would be a shock to find someone else show up here next Sunday....well connected to the conference.~~

One concern that I share with you that comes out of Conference is a request of Bishop Nichols. He is asking each church to receive an offering next Sunday or the Sunday after for the benefit of the Pacic Homes situation in the Southern California Conference. Most of you know about it and we'll have special information available next Sunday. Our goal for the appeal is \$235.00 and we'll have special envelopes in the pews next Sunday. If each of us over the next two Sundays puts in a dollar or two we should reach our "fair share" asking. (over)

TODAY / GUEST PREACHER

This morning we welcome the Reverend George M. Teague to our pulpit. Mr. Teague has been with us on one or two other occasions over the years...when he was Associate Pastor of Christ Church United Methodist here in our city. Now retired, he and Mrs. Teague live in Saddle River, NJ.

He comes to us with a message on his heart that relates to our search for peace in our world. His text is from Luke's Gospel, Chapter 19, verse 42:

"Would that even today you knew the things that make for peace. But now they are hid from your eyes."

We welcome Mr. Teague to our pulpit. We welcome both Dr. and Mrs. Teague to our Church this morning....dear friends...concerned, articulate people. We shall have the benefit of their enthusiasm and experience in our meeting on the Holy Land Trip....for which we are grateful.

OFFERING

Jesus said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive". In this spirit, let us worship God with our offering.

ANTHEM: "Lead Me, Lord"

"Lead me, Lord, lead me in Thy righteousness, make Thy way plain before my face. For it is Thou, Lord, Thou Lord only that maketh me dwell in safety".

ANTHEM: "Bow Down Thine Ear"

"Bow down Thine ear, O Lord, and hear me; for I am poor and in misery. Preserve Thou my soul, for I am poor and in misery.

Preserve Thou my soul, for I am holy; my God, save Thy servant that putteth his trust in Thee. Be merciful unto me, O Lord; for I will call daily upon Thee."

ORGAN POSTLUDE

The organ postlude - a final offering of our praise to God - is played after the Benediction. Time permitting, we invite you to remain to share in the beauty of it.

HOLY LAND TRIP

Persons interested in learning more about a possible trip to the Holy Land in 1982 are invited to meet together today at 12:45 in the Choir Room. We hope to have information regarding possible dates, prices and itinerary. If you're unable to stay for it, but consider yourself an interested participant, share word with Miss Hoelscher or Mr. Clarke.

TODAY'S PREACHER

We welcome the Reverend George M. Teague to the pulpit this morning. Formerly associated with Christ Church Methodist here in the city, Mr. Teague - now retired - makes his home in New Jersey. A friend to several people in our Church, he has held pastorates in New Haven, Connecticut; Glens Falls, New York and Ardsley, New York. It's a joy to have Dr. and Mrs. Teague with us today.

ROSE ON THE ALTAR

The rose on the altar last Sunday was in honor of Bonnie June Yoder, infant daughter of Jean and Joe Yoder, born June 4th, 1981.

AN ADULT CLASS

A popular Bible Class for adults meets on Sunday morning at 9:30 in Fellowship Hall. Coffee is available and new members are always welcome.

ALL-CHURCH PICNIC

Today is the last Sunday to purchase a ticket (\$3.00) for the All-Church Picnic of this coming Saturday, June 20th. Be sure to get your ticket at the coffee hour.

FINANCE COMMITTEE TO MEET

The Finance Committee will meet Thursday evening at 6:30 for a supper meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: June 28, 1981

GREETING / VISITORS

We greet the visitors in the congregation this morning....delighted to have you with us, and we hope that the opportunity will be ours to greet you in a more personal way following this service....either at the door as you depart, or - if time permits - downstairs in the Russell Room where punch and cookies will be served.

Be free in the sharing of your name with us. Sign one of the Guest Books. Join us on other Sundays in our worship and fellowship. You worship in a Church that has been ministering - in the name of Christ - to the needs of others in this city since 1837. It is a Church with a fine record of giving and serving, and it is in His name that we this morning bid you a warm welcome.

CONCERNS

I have a number of concerns to underscore with a brief word at this time.

First, remember that starting next Sunday, July 5th, and extending through Labor Day that the hour of worship will be at ten o'clock. Ten Sundays at ten. Share word of this, if you will, with others in the Church. And let's do our best to keep our Sunday congregation on these ten Sundays over 100 people. We've never done this and I feel that this is the Summer we're going to do it. Make a special effort to be with us during the Summer if you're in the city on weekends.

The Adult Class will continue to meet and they will meet at nine o'clock in Fellowship Hall.

Second, this is the last Sunday until September 20th, for the choir to be with us. We thank them for their music across these past 42 Sundays. Our thanks to each choir member, each soloist and a special word to Mr. Woodside, our organist - choir-director. It's been a good year and we thank you. Again this Summer, we shall have volunteer soloists from the choir sharing in our services of worship.

Third, the Membership Committee will meet this evening at 6:30 on the roof...solarium...for a cook-out supper and a brief meeting. All members are urged to be present.

ALSO

You'll note the word about the special appeal for the Pacific Homes. We hope to respond with \$235.00 for this special offering, of which \$200 has already been received. Another \$35.00 today will take us over the top. We hope you'll respond if you haven't already done so. Envelopes are in the pews.

(over)

TODAY'S PREACHER

We welcome William Proctor, our Lay Leader, to the pulpit today. Bill is no stranger to most of you... you've heard him before. He always brings a down-to-earth, warm and spiritually helpful message.

He's a gifted individual. He also is the teacher of the Adult Bible Class which meets on Sunday mornings before church. A trustee and also husband to Pam and father to Michael, it's a joy to welcome Bill to the pulpit once again. ~~For me, his sermon comes at a good time, for I've been fighting a bad virus for ten days and appreciate his availability for today's sermon assignment.~~

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