

Whispers of the Spirit



Meditations for March 29th to April 4th

Whispers of the Spirit is a shared ministry of
Deacon Carolyn Quinnell and Ruth Wallace.
This week's meditations are written by Ruth.

Sunday, March 29th: Psalm 130/ Ezekiel 37: 1-14/Romans 8: 6-11/
John 11: 1-45

John 11:40 *Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"*

Jesus is talking to Martha. Her brother, Jesus' friend Lazarus is lying in the tomb. Jesus weeps with her and Mary. Then he offers a short prayer to the Father and shouts, "Lazarus, come out!" Lazarus came out, hands, feet, and face bound in strips of cloth. Jesus says, "Unbind him, and let him go." They have witnessed a miracle.

Sometimes we may feel as bound up as Lazarus. The cares and stress of this life weigh us down, seeming to paralyze our every move. Jesus came to set us free!

Lord Jesus, please unbind us from whatever holds us back from being free in you. We want to see your glory. AMEN.

Monday, March 30th: Psalm 31/ Exodus 4:10-31/
1 Corinthians 14: 1-19/ Mark 9:30-41

Mark 9:4 *For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.*

One unseasonably hot October in New York a friend and I took our boys Trick-or-Treating in the subdivision where we lived. Her son, Tommy was wearing a furry animal costume. At one house when the boys went to the door, the woman saw past the Halloween costume to a red cheeked boy with sweat rolling down his face. She asked if they would like some cold water, which they accepted gratefully. As we walked away, Tommy said, "Mommy that was the nicest lady I

ever met.” That act of kindness was remembered long after the candy was forgotten.

Lord, help us look past the appearance of people and recognize their need. AMEN.

Tuesday, March 31st: Psalm 123/ Exodus 5:1-6:1/
1 Corinthians 14: 20-33a, 39-40/ Mark 9: 42-50

Exodus 5:2 *But Pharaoh said, “Who is the Lord, that I should heed him and let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, and I will not let Israel go.”*

Moses and Aaron had just been sent by God to ask Pharaoh to give them a few days off work to go celebrate a religious festival. This angered Pharaoh, who doubled their work load and told them they must produce the same amount of bricks along with gathering the straw to make them. When that didn’t happen, he beat his own supervisors. Moses then cries out to God for help. God assures Moses that help is coming. Little does Pharaoh know that this God he doesn’t know is about to introduce himself by raining down plagues on top of Pharaoh until he drives the Israelites out of his land.

Lord, thank you that even in the most difficult situations you hear and answer our prayers. Please hear us now and drive this Corona virus from our land. AMEN.

Wednesday, April 1st: Psalm 119: 145-176/ Exodus 7: 8-24/
2 Corinthians 2:14-3:6/ Mark 10: 1-16

2 Corinthians 3:3 *And you show that you are a letter of Christ, prepared by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone, but on tablets of human hearts.*

Paul tells the Corinthian Christians that he didn’t need to bring a letter of recommendation when he came to see them because he was the one who brought them the good news of Christ. They are living the faith. He describes them as living letters of Christ. If you and I are letters of Christ, what do our letters say? There are eleven more

days until Easter Sunday. Let's write a letter to Christ, thanking him for the things he has written in our hearts.

Lord Jesus, thank you for being the example for us to follow. AMEN.

Thursday, April 2nd: Psalm 133/ Exodus 7:25-8:19/
2 Corinthians 3:7-18/ Mark 10:17-31

Psalm 133:1 *How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!*

How is it going at your house? Is your family enjoying the togetherness brought on by Covid 19? There are many comments on social media from parents who are not delighted to have their children home from school these extra weeks. There are also many suggestions posted on fun activities to occupy the time. Museums and places of interest present virtual tours to broaden horizons while sitting at home.

For however long it lasts, try to make Psalm 133:1 a reality in your home. Somehow, when someone coined the phrase "Stay-Cation" a few years ago, I don't think this is what they had in mind.

Heavenly Father, thank you for family. Help us to do all we can to grow closer to our loved ones while we have the opportunity. AMEN.

Friday, April 3rd: Psalm 22/ Exodus 9:13-35/
2 Corinthians 4: 1-12/ Mark 10: 32-45

Mark 10:45 *For the son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.*

Throughout his ministry, Jesus has championed those who have been despised and avoided by many. His acts of service are numerous. He has healed physically and spiritually the beggar, the leper, the foreigner, the adulterer, the tax collector. He has filled people's bellies and emptied them of demons.

As he is trying to prepare his disciples for his impending death, James and John ask for places at his right and left hand in his glory. Then the others chime in. Jesus calmly explains the difference between earthly rulers and those who are great in the kingdom of God.

Lord Jesus, help us look at the world through your eyes and serve others in your name. AMEN.

Saturday, April 4th: Psalm 144/ Exodus 10:21-11:18/
2 Corinthians 4:13-18/ Mark 10:46-52

Psalm 144:3 *O Lord, what are human beings that you regard them, or mortals that you think of them?*

When my first son was born, the doctor held him up and said, "This child is the image of his father-except for lacking a mustache." As he grew, the boy became more like his father in his build, his likes and dislikes, and his mannerisms.

David, our psalmist, is praising God for being his rock and his deliverer throughout his trials and battles. He marvels at God's goodness to him, and wonders why he even notices him. Genesis tells us that God created man and woman in his image (1:26-27) and gave them a job to do, taking care of the earth. Man, like God, is a personal, rational, and moral being, and is intended to have fellowship with God. How are you growing more into God's image this Lenten season?

Thank you, Heavenly Father, for making us in your image. Help us to see you in everyone we meet. AMEN.

