

Whispers of the Spirit



Meditations for November 22nd to November 28th

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

Sunday, November 22nd (Christ the King Sunday)

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 / Psalm 95:1-7a / Ephesians 1:15-23 /
Matthew 25:31-46

Psalm 95:1 *Come, let us sing to the Lord; * let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.*

The bible mentions singing to the Lord several times, so apparently this is something we really are supposed to do. I know for myself singing, especially a well-liked praise song, can lift my spirits. Your choice of genres may lean more towards the classics. Some days just walking down my driveway in the morning and listening to the songs of the birds can also lift me up. So what if you don't think you can carry a tune in a bucket – I believe God's grace will transform whatever our musical offering is into a glorious tune in His throne room. So shall we join in the heavenly chorus and lift our voices in praise? Let's warm up our voices together: La, la, la, la, la, la, la, la....

Lord, guide me in my praises to your glory. Amen.

Monday, November 23rd Zechariah 10:1-12 / Psalm 106:1-18 / Galatians 6:1-10 / Luke 18:15-30

Galatians 6:10 *So then, Whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.*

Recently my husband and I were in a setting where we had an opportunity to offer prayers for a lot of different individuals. These people are typically in need of some type of assistance, mostly food, but quite a few also have physical conditions. Considering the circumstances, I was a bit surprised at the number of people who

wanted prayers for our country and not themselves. I can recall as an elementary school student hearing the inaugural address by John F. Kennedy and him quoting, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country." Friends, while we cannot all physically do something for our nation, we *can* all pray for guidance for our leadership, that they may be led to do God's will through their decisions.

Lord, we ask that you lead all our elected officials to make choices according to your will for our country. Open their hearts, minds and ears to hear your word. Amen.

Tuesday, November 24th Zechariah 11:4-17 / Psalm 121, 122, 123/
1 Corinthians 3:10-23 / Luke 18:31-43

Luke 18:35-38 *As he approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard a crowd going by, he asked what was happening. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." Then he shouted, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"*

Close your eyes for a minute and picture yourself in this scene. Where are you? Are you part of the crowd that's been following Jesus? Perhaps you live in Jericho and have come out to see what was happening. Perhaps you're the blind man sitting on the side of the road. Whoever you are, Jesus is there for you. He's willing (and able) to reach into your darkness – your own personal blindness – and let his light shine upon you. All you need to do is say to him, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Come Lord Jesus and shine the light of your healing love into my life, my heart. Amen.

Wednesday, November 25th Zechariah 12:1-10 /
Psalm 119:145-176 / Ephesians 1:3-14 / Luke 19:1-10

Luke 19:5 *When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today."*

Have you ever wondered how Jesus knew the name of Zacchaeus? There's no mention anywhere that the two had previously met, yet

in this verse the chief tax collector of Jericho was called by name. The truth of the matter is, Jesus knows all our names. Imagine that, the Son of the Living God, Jesus, knows – you – by – name. Let that sink in for a minute. Some will immediately think, “Well of course he knows me,” while others will take a different course and say, “If he knows me by name, what else does he know about me?” We, like Zacchaeus, are being called by Jesus. He wants to come to our house – our lives – today. Will we let him in?

Come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen.

Thursday, November 26th (Thanksgiving Day)

Deuteronomy 8:7-18 / Psalm 65 / 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 /

Luke 17:11-19

2 Corinthians 9:8 *And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.*

There was a lady at the parish I grew up in by the name of Ann. Every parish luncheon or dinner was arranged by Ann, whether it be for fellowship, Lenten dinners, vacation bible schools or funeral receptions – Ann was in the kitchen and you knew the food was going to be excellent. I recall one function, in particular, where the turn-out was much larger than expected and the kitchen crew started to panic. So what did they do? Under Ann’s guidance, they prayed. Don’t you know everyone had their fill of food that night and it was all good. The Lord blessed Ann and her crew’s efforts. He will bless yours also.

One more thing, Happy Thanksgiving to all.

Lord, thank you for my many gifts. How may I offer them back to you? Amen.

Friday, November 27th Zechariah 14:1-11 / Psalm 140, 142 / Romans 15:7-13 / Luke 19:28-40

Romans 15:7 *Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.*

I've looked this verse up in several different translations and they all say essentially the same thing, "Welcome one another..." However, my brain wants to read it, "Welcome everyone..." The reason probably harks back to the first renewal weekend I ever worked on where our leader stressed the fact that the good news of Jesus is for everyone, and if we knew something bad from a participant's past, well we were to keep it to ourselves. That lesson has stayed with me through the years. Jesus Christ died for the sins of all people - not just the ones who look and act like me. *Everyone* has the choice to accept Jesus into their lives. Praise God.

Lord, help me to look upon others as you look upon them. Amen.

Saturday, November 28th Zechariah 14:12-21 / Psalm 137:1-9 /
Philippians 2:1-11 / Luke 19:41-48

Philippians 2:9-11 *Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Today marks the last day of our church calendar year, which means we begin a new year tomorrow with the first Sunday in Advent. So, Happy New Year! It also means my writing partner, Ruth Wallace, and I have been offering these meditations for one full year. Sometimes the words have flown from our fingers to our keyboards, but there have been other times when we have had to do a lot of praying about what God would have us say. At all times it has been a blessing to be able to share this ministry with you. A very special thank you to all who have supported and encouraged us, as well as our faithful readers.

Throughout the year we have strived to share the love of Christ and we hope He has touched you in some special way. Together we join all our brothers and sisters in Christ as we look forward to the day when every knee throughout all creation will bend to our Lord Jesus and every tongue confess He is Lord. Amen.

To be continued by the grace of God ...

