

Nudges of the Spirit



Meditations for November 19th to November 25th

Nudges of the Spirit is currently a ministry of Deacon Carolyn Quinnell, Sandy Freiberger and Denise Bersos.
This week's selections have been written by Denise.

Sunday, November 19th Judges 4:1-7 or Zephaniah 1:7,12-18 /
Psalm 123 or 90:1-8,(9-11),12 / 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 /
Matthew 25:14-30 (*written by Denise*)

1 Thessalonians 5:8 *But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.*

Every morning when we wake up, there is a resurrection of the sun that invites us to join in the day. As I get older, I appreciate and am more awake to this miracle. Being in self-control is one of the fruits of the spirit. In order to be a good steward of the gifts of the spirit, I must choose to connect with God so that I reflect the Spirit of God to others. When I read this scripture it reminded me of 1 Corinthians 13:13 "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." Let's all remember today to put the armor of God on and plant seeds of faith, love and hope wherever the day takes us.

Holy Spirit, be present in us as we minister the fruits of the spirit to all we meet. Amen

Monday, November 20th 1 Maccabees 3:1-24 / Psalm 89:1-18 /
Revelation 20:7-15 / Matthew 17:1-13 (*written by Denise*)

Psalm 89:11 *The heavens are yours, and yours also the earth, you founded the world and all that is in it.*

Our Creator. God founded everything and all belongs to him. It is interesting how we can become so territorial and possessive with "our stuff." Finding Nemo is a great movie, with many spiritual lessons about different personalities. The seagulls are in a scene squawking "Mine, Mine, Mine" They are scavengers and every

morsel of food is theirs. They do not share. You have probably seen them act this way at the beach. I guess they are unaware of this scripture? It is easy for me to look at the seagull, but where in my life am I squawking “Mine, Mine, Mine,” and not sharing God’s gifts with others. I can be possessive of my time, my money, my clothes, relationships, etc. Today might be a good day to inventory how many times I say “Mine,” and change it to “God’s”. Remembering that all I have is from God.

Gracious God, remind me that there is enough to share in my letting go of what I think is “Mine.” Amen

Tuesday, November 21st 1 Maccabees 3:25-41 / Psalm 97, 99 / Revelation 21:1-8 / Matthew 17:14-21 *(written by Denise)*

Revelations 21:3 *And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.”*

I reread this scripture several times. God is making the world new, and is the Alpha and the Omega. Jesus came over two thousand years ago to take away our sins, so that we could be connected and have a personal relationship with God. I believe the Holy Spirit continues to invite us to be ready for this new world. God will live with us, and those that have overcome will inherit eternal life and the promise of a new world where God dwells with us. Just sit with this idea for a while. This is such great news for us. As Episcopalians, we strive for our communities, families, and friends to be included in this promise. There are no prerequisites in the Episcopal Church. “Everyone is welcome!”

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Amen

Wednesday, November 22nd 1 Maccabees 3:42-60 / Psalm 101, 109:1-4(5-19)20-30 / Revelation 21:9-21 / Matthew 17:22-27 *(written by Denise)*

Psalm 109:26 *Help me, O Lord my God; save me in accordance with your love.*

Our God is an awesome God! This scripture is telling me that I do not have to do anything for God in order for him to help me. The reward and punishment, quid pro quo, can become the framework for our fundamental relationships as well as our relationship with the Divine. It does seem fair, and I am not saying it is wrong, but I believe Jesus is inviting us into a more personal, intimate relationship with the Divine as well with others. Grace is the bridge that connects us. It is an undeserved gift, which cannot be earned. All that is required is we receive it in accordance to God's love.

Awesome God, help us strengthen our faith in our relationship with you through your Grace. Amen

Thursday, November 23rd (Thanksgiving Day) Deuteronomy 8:7-18 / Psalm 65 / 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 / Luke 17:11-19 *(written by Denise)*

2 Corinthians 9:11 (Paul said) *"You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God."*

Happy Thanksgiving! What a glorious scripture to read on this Thanksgiving Day. As we celebrate Thanksgiving with friends and family today, let's take a moment to pause and reflect on how God has made us rich in every way. We gather together in worship around tables as we break bread with each other. This day is a special day of Thanksgiving. I am witness to the spirit of this day every day at my church home with my church family. The generosity of time, money, food, ideas, prayers, teachings, fellowship, love, work, happens every day. Come see!!!

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Praise you! Thank you!

Friday, November 24th 1 Maccabees 4:36-59 / Psalm 102 / Revelation 22:6-13 / Matthew 18:10-20 *(written by Denise)*

Matthew 18:20 (Jesus said) *“For where two or three come together in my name, there I am with them.”*

My favorite thing to talk about is God. I love to listen to people tell me their personal stories of how God has entered their hearts in a profound way. Whenever we are with others sharing about God, or watching others greet each other with smiles and hugs, we can be assured that Jesus is with us. The Resurrected King is right here resurrecting us into the sunlight of the spirit. We all have circumstances in our lives, and we don't want these circumstances to define who we are. When we gather together we begin to open our ears and eyes to see and hear God's voice. We remind each other that we are all beloved children of God. We then define ourselves not by our problems but by God's promises and provisions. Surely the presence of God is in this place!

Jesus, release the resources from heaven to strengthen us as we meet our challenges. Amen

Saturday, November 25th Isaiah 65:17-25 / Psalm 107:33-43,
108:1-6(7-13) / Revelation 22:14-21 / Matthew 18:21-35 *(written by Denise)*

Psalm 108:5 *Be exalted, O God, above the heavens, and let your glory be all over the earth.*

I don't have to tell you about the problems we are experiencing on the earth right now. Sometimes it can be overwhelming and I know I can feel so powerless to do anything. This brings to mind The Daughters of the King's motto: "I am but one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. What I ought to do, by the grace of God I will do." We must pray for God's glory to be all over the earth. We also must do our part in spreading God's love to others. The bible stories can help us. Abraham, Sarah, and Hager were rather dysfunctional and in spite of, or because of their faults and flaws, God used them for his divine plan. This gives us assurance that we all can be useful in God's purpose.

Dear God, may your Glory and Mercy be all over the earth. Please show us how to be useful in your plan. Here we are!

