

Nudges of the Spirit

Meditations for October 26th to November 1st



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

Sunday, October 26th Joel 2:23-32 or Sirach 35:12-17 or Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22 / Psalm 65 or 84:1-6 /
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 / Luke 18:9-14 (*written by Carolyn*)

Sirach (aka Ecclesiasticus from the Apocrypha) 35:12 *Give to the Most High as he has given to you, and as generously as you can afford.*

Every time I hear the Christmas song, “The Little Drummer Boy,” I get tears in my eyes. This has not always been the case. I can remember singing this in high school chorus, listening to the boys sing the part of the drums and thinking the girls had a more interesting part to sing but it was boys voices that really “made” the song. It wasn’t until I was quite a bit older and began contemplating things like tithing and giving back to the Lord in thanksgiving for the many gifts he has given me. That’s when I really paid attention to the words about the little drummer boy giving the only thing that was his. The thing is, it was the Lord who first gave him the gift of music, so in essence the little boy was offering the gift back to the author of his talent. What is it we can offer?

Lord, how may I honor you today? Amen.

Monday, October 27th Zechariah 1:7-17 / Psalm 41, 52 / Revelation 1:4-20 / Matthew 12:43-50 (*written by Carolyn*)

Revelation 1:10 (John wrote) *I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet...*

We know from Acts that Peter would pray in the Spirit; we also know from some of Paul’s writings that he would do the same. Here we have John doing likewise. So, apparently the practice of being led by the Spirit as to what and how to pray was very familiar to the early church. Though I don’t know for sure, I suspect that certain Christian denominations are more familiar with this practice than others. Having grown up in the Episcopal tradition and having my initial roots in the “frozen chosen” era, I can safely say this was never practiced in my home or the place I consider to be my church home. Having very scripted and preprinted prayers was the norm. Having a personal relationship with the Lord is important to me, as I hope it is to you. And, being led by the Spirit in my prayer life is a gift of grace, because quite frankly, I don’t always know what to say.

Lord, guide my prayers always. Amen.

Tuesday, October 28th (St. Simon and St. Jude) Deuteronomy 32:1-4 / Psalm 119:89-96 / Ephesians 2:13-22 /
John 15:17-27 (*written by Carolyn*)

John 15: 26-27 (Jesus said) *“When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.”*

These words are part of the final teaching that Jesus gave to His disciples. Imagine yourself in the room, along with the others who have been your companions as you travelled about witnessing the many miracles and listening to the teachings of the Rabbi. I can well imagine myself to be a bit puzzled with an uneasy feeling in my gut. In our vernacular today, the word “testify” is strongly linked to courtrooms and trials. Yes, the original disciples faced those, but they also gave eyewitness accounts to all that Jesus said and did to whomever would listen. How comfortable are we telling all that Jesus has said to us or done in our lives? The same Advocate whom He sent to aid the original disciples helps us to do as they did.

Thank you, Holy Spirit, for guiding me. Amen.

Wednesday, October 29th Ezra 6:1-22 / Psalm 119:49-72 / Revelation 5:1-10 / Matthew 13:10-17 *(written by Carolyn)*

Psalm 119:55 *I remember your name in the night, O Lord, and keep your law.*

There is something about looking at a problem during the nighttime that makes the situation graver than it seems during the daylight hours. Perhaps that is because my mind & body have rested, and the Lord has taken the opportunity to whisper in my ears while I sleep reminders that He is with me always. Sometimes I will awaken with a fresh perspective with new insight. This is especially so if, during the night, I have said the words, "Help me Jesus." Of course, this doesn't apply only to physical night and day, but also mental or spiritual times as well. When we're faced with the possibility of a long recovery from an injury or illness, Jesus is there with us, helping us take each step forward.

Thank you, Jesus. Amen.

Thursday, October 30th Nehemiah 1:1-11 / Psalm 50 / Revelation 5:11–6:11 / Matthew 13:18-23 *(written by Carolyn)*

Psalm 50:23 *"Those who bring thanksgiving as their sacrifice honor me; to those who go the right way I will show the salvation of God."*

Back when we had a large area for planting a garden, I began the practice of asking the Lord to bless our crops. He did. We sold our property and moved south and into a community. The only crops we can grow here must be done so in containers of some sort. We have so far tried tomatoes and green beans. While our tomatoes have been fairly tasty, the beans are nothing like what we used to have. It occurred to me that we are no longer asking the Lord to bless our crop. That's our problem! How often do we ask for the Lord's blessing on our home, finances, efforts – everything we're involved in? If they aren't producing as you had hoped, perhaps there's a cause and effect. May we all remember to give Him thanks for what we have and ask for His blessing in all things.

Lord, thank you for this day and the opportunity to serve in your name. Amen.

Friday, October 31st Nehemiah 2:1-20 / Psalm 40, 54 / Revelation 6:12–7:4 / Matthew 13:24-30 *(written by Carolyn)*

Psalm 40:3a *He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.*

Back when I sang in a choir, our leader would sometimes spend weeks teaching us a new song. At times it seemed as though we would have to give up on the piece because it was just too difficult for our group of amateurs. But we never did and with patience and perseverance we eventually learned our parts. There was one in particular called "Leaning on the Rock of Ages" that presented challenges, however, once we learned it, we could sing with gusto. Sometimes the Lord gives us such new challenges that we wonder how in the world we would accomplish His will, yet He does not give up on us. He gives us ample opportunity to learn.

Lord, thank you for guiding me. Amen.

Saturday, November 1st (All Saints Day) Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18 / Psalm 149 / Ephesians 1:11-23 / Luke 6:20-31 *(written by Carolyn)*

Daniel 7:15 *As for me, Daniel, my spirit was troubled within me, and the visions of my head terrified me.*

Have you ever had a bad or troubling dream that bothered you even after you opened your eyes to a new day? It would seem that our minds go in all kinds of directions when we're sleeping. I recall many years ago having a dream where my brain was being operated on. I contemplated that dream for days, until I finally mentioned it to my spiritual director. He asked if it had occurred to me that perhaps the Lord was nudging me to change my mind about something significant in my life. I began to be open to new possibilities and that particular dream no longer bothered me. After Daniel woke from his dream, he wrote it down and then talked to someone about it.

Occasionally, we need to talk things out with other people – no matter how foolish we may think we sound when we do so. The Lord gives us each other for support.

Lord, guide my waking and my sleeping. Amen.