



Grace Church of West Feliciana Parish

"A loving congregation seeking unity with God and each other in Christ"

Newsletter

April 9 & 16, 2017

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Whose Voice is this I Hear?

One of the greatest lessons of our study on Centering Prayer is that this form of meditation functions for many as Divine Psychotherapy. In healthy therapeutic relationships the therapist acts with great empathy, unconditional positive regard, and great care. He or she acts as a non-judgmental presence with the client. As such, the therapist acts contrary to how many of the people in our lives acted as we were growing up, and, by doing so, he or she helps us integrate and resolve those experiences. In the therapeutic relationship healing comes from the telling and retelling of our stories and the experience of high degrees of acceptance and care. In Centering Prayer we enter into God's holy space and through our profound communion with him we begin to discern the many ways in which God loves us, seeks to have a relationship with us, and has always been present in our lives. We experience divine forgiveness, acceptance and love. And, through this experience of overwhelming love and acceptance, we heal from the profound sense of alienation from God with which many of us have struggled and, perhaps, continue to struggle. We gradually begin to hear the voice of a God we now experience as father and friend.

Much of what we do is fueled by internal processes of which we are seldom fully aware. As we learned in our study, all of us carry mental libraries filled with video and audio files we have accumulated throughout our lives. These are the voices that seek to shame us, produce great guilt and anxiety, and act like evil Jiminy Crickets always reminding us of what we have done wrong, of our failures, of our weaknesses, and our deepest insecurities. These are the voices, and sometimes images, that cause our performance anxiety dreams, make us feel as though we don't belong, and convince us we don't deserve happiness, wealth, or security because we are phony charlatans. Many of these voices have names we remember. These are teachers, parents, step-parents, family members, friends, and anyone else who ever put us down, failed to appreciate us, used us as emotional punching bags, and bullied us. Some of the voices are incorporeal. They may have belonged to people we once knew, but now they are just voices in our minds, always ready to put us in our place, cut us down to size, and pull the rug from under us. They try to convince us daily that we deserve our pain, we must accept unhappiness as the will of God, and we are totally depraved in every fiber of our being.

The sad reality is that we are more prone to believe these voices than the voices of brothers and sisters who love us and seek to affirm us. A sadder reality still is that the Church has so fallen for dualistic thinking and preaching that it has done a great job convincing us of our complete and total depravity. From this belief, the church has moved not to an offer of Christ's free, overwhelming, and radical grace, but to an emphasis on human effort which they believe aids the act of salvation. So, on the one

hand, we have the multiple voices and images in our brain that tell us we are forever broken and unable to produce anything good. On the other hand, we have some churches saying, "You must earn your way there somehow because without your efforts you will not be saved." Needless to say, this is a recipe for additional shame and anxiety.

In Centering Prayer we enter God's space as broken and imperfect as we are, but soon discover that God loves us as we are, that he is not appalled or repelled by our weaknesses, that he is love eternal, love crucified, and redeeming love. We find in prayer a reality many churches have hidden from us: Salvation is not up to us but up to the one who died for us to reconcile us to our God and Father. We have not lost the image of God in us, no matter how many layers of dust may cover it. God is alive and real and he seeks a relationship based on love and gratitude and not based on fear and anxiety. It is indescribably beautiful to believe that the God who is Creator of all that is and Almighty source of all life, has a personal stake in my happiness and my salvation. He is the true antidote to all those voices that seek to keep us bound, chained in the darkness of our shame, and slaves to the same patterns of behaviors and the same self-defeating relationships. God wants my happiness and God wants my healing.

As we approach the mysteries of Holy Week and many of us are confronted with more shame and more guilt, please remember God's love for you. Nothing can separate you from his love in Christ Jesus. Nothing! Your salvation is a free gift you receive by faith. So, give yourself a break. Breathe the air of freedom God wants you to experience. Turn some of those voices off and, as Luther used to do, remember that you too have been baptized. You are a new creation. You are Christ's and he loves you in indescribable ways! May God continue to bless you, Fr. Roldan+

Grace Episcopal Church will be hosting a **Women's High Tea** as the first fundraiser for the new kitchen. This will be a great opportunity to fellowship with other women in the community while enjoying live music, tea, treats and conversation. Save the date Saturday, April 29, at 3:00PM. See Chris Roldan to purchase tickets that are \$75 each.

Your prayers are asked for Raymond B. Maestri, father of Maria Gerry, who died recently. Services were held in Covington.

Your prayers are asked for the family of Jessica Daniel El Bechir, daughter of Suzette and Willis Daniel, who died March 26 in Vietnam. Visitation will be Friday, April 7th, in Jackson Hall from 5 to 8pm. Visitation will continue on Saturday in the church at 10am until the service begins at 11am. Following the burial in Grace Cemetery, there will be a reception in Jackson Hall. If you would like to contribute food for the Saturday reception, please contact Mary Weller Morse, 721-0703, or call the Church Office. 635-4065.

The West Feliciana Food Pantry has finally moved into their new building on Hwy. 10. (The old grocery). On the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month they need volunteers to help sort food items and fill boxes for clients. If you need more information, please call Kelly Ward, 721-2253.

The West Feliciana Food Pantry would like us to collect baby wipes and feminine hygiene products for April and May. Staples, such as peanut butter, breakfast bars, dry beans and tuna fish are always welcome.

The Church Office will be closed on Good Friday and Easter Monday.

Fr. Roldan will be on vacation Tuesday, April 18 until April 25.

Intercessory prayers are asked for Grace Church members who are ill:

David Barnes,
Jamie Daniel,
Lucile Lawrason,
Tom Morris, Sara Nelson, Margie Sheets, Kay Tengler, Eleanor Thomas, Wendell Wade, David Walker, Hayes Whatley, Mary Lyle Whatley, Jake Wray, Madeline Wright.

Birthdays

Rebecca Klein Wilson-4/9; Mathes Hughes, Rob Trep- pendahl-4/10; Sam Nicholas-4/11; Lori Griffin, Louis LeBlanc-4/12; Chip Tregle-4/13; Ann Weller-4/15; Mike Williams-4/16; David Barnes, Mathilde Fox-Smith -4/17; Donnie Davis, Derek Thornton-4/18; Emma Oliver, Dr. Pat Schneider, Meg Kendrick-4/19; Sheryl Wynters, Peggy Gammill, Christian DeJean, Neal Elliott Jr-4/20; Pam Willson-4/21; Roberta Barrow, Matthew Skaggs, John Moss-4/22

Wedding Anniversaries

Wade & Diana Weller-4/10; Tim & Kathy Kane-4/14; Kevin & Rebecca Wilson -4/17; Adam & Carly Whatley-4/18; Bill & Pam Willson-4/20.

Other persons prayers are asked for:

Charles Barham, Walker Bell, Micaela Kell Bennett, Leslie Bickham, Phillip Bowen, Leo Brown, Ben Brown, Steve Brown, Willie Bryant, Randy Bryant, Mac Bullock, John Caruthers, Jenny Clark, Kitty Claus, Bob Crowley, Kathleen Davis, Debbie Desmar, Helen Desselles, Cathy Doslovic, Molly Douglas, Mark Ellison, Jennifer Erickson, Mark Feltner, Juanita Ferguson, Dennis Flynn, Matthew Gill, Roy Hardin, Parke Henderson, Wayne Hudnall, Joel James, Michelle Jean-sonne, Jill Joffrion, Henry Jones, Mary Jo Kaly, Cecil Kelly, Jody Lemoine, Bob Lewis, Jessica Liddle, Max, Paul McGuff, Ralph McKenzie, Laine Martrain, Mary Anne McCrory, Ruby McKee, David Merritt, Robin Michel, Dorothy Anne Millikin, Jimmy Mitchell, Rusty Melton, Randall Nachman, Barton Platte, Cecelia Polito, Susanna Prescott, Susan Pray, Carol Ratcliff, Tammy Riggs, Cole Rourke, Stephen Seale, Gwin Shanks, Kaizlyn Shockley, Cade Stapleton, Roland Touns, Denham Turner, Darold Whitmer, Zane Woodward.

Those serving in the armed forces: Parker Blanche, Amanda Browning, James Boucher, Jay Christopher, Ryan Coacher, Ben Colia, John Davis, Joseph Dooley, Bryan Geltz, Edward Jenkins, Laura Latson, Shawn Lemons, Terry Palmer, James Powers, Jeff Ragusa, Christopher Willis, Matthew Young, 745th & 746th Exped Squads, 379th & 926th Exped. Support Squads.

The St. Francisville Symphony Association (SFSA) is once again holding a Wine Tasting and Wine Auction. This event will be held in conjunction with the April 28th concert at Grace Church. We hope to auction several wine collections and ask that you consider donating a bottle (or two) of wine for the April "Instant Wine Cellar" auction. Proceeds of the auction help fund the SFSA Scholarship Program and are also used to support the music programs for the local schools. Please let me know if you would like to donate. I will make arrangements to collect your wine or donations can also be dropped off at the Historical Society Museum, with a note to my attention. Include your name (or company name) so that we can include it in the list of donors to be displayed at the auction. Finally, plan to attend the Wine Tasting & Auction and concert. It promises to be a lovely event and a great way to celebrate spring. Susie Tully

Vacation Bible School will be the week of July 10 -14 and the theme will be "Maker Fun Factory". Make plans to send your children and grandchildren or volunteer to help by calling Meg Kendrick (721-7342) or Christie Reinhardt (938-8504).

Grace Youth Fun: On Monday, April 10th we will be kayaking and fishing in Pointe Coupee with Bayou Sara Kayaks. Got your own kayak? Come join us! All are invited to attend. Please let Meg know if you will attend by 5 p.m. on Wednesday April 5th and if you are in need of a rental. We will meet at Grace at 8:30am Monday morning to prepare bagged lunches and head out. Permission slips are required for all youth attending if one has not previously been completed. Forms can be found on the table outside Ms. Anne's office. Want to volunteer? Let Meg know at youth@gracechurchwfp.org. On Thursday, April 13th after the 7 p.m. service the youth group will participate in their annual cleaning of the church and reflection. Once done, we'll head over to Father Peter's house for a bonfire and refreshments. All 6th through 12th grade youth are invited to attend Youth Group every Wednesday from 5 - 7 p.m. Food, fellowship and fun are always provided!

Easter lily decorations: You may put your donation in the offering plate this Sunday or mail it to the office by April 10th.

Palm Crosses: Join us at Jackson Hall on Friday, April 7 at 10am to make palm crosses for Palm Sunday. If you've never made a palm cross, join us to learn how. Please bring a pair of scissors to cut the fronds.

Easter Egg hunt: Please bring 12 boiled and decorated eggs to the kitchen in Jackson Hall by 9:30am Easter morning. Have your child's age on the carton so our helpers know which age group to hide them in.

Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday: April 9, Holy Eucharist at 7:30am and 10:00am

Maundy Thursday: April 13, Holy Eucharist and Washing of Feet at 7:00PM at Grace
Vigil at the Altar of Repose begins at 8:15PM in Jackson Hall.

Cleaning of the Church by the Youth Group begins at 8:00PM, followed by TBA activity.

Good Friday: April 14, Passion of our Lord Service at 12:00 Noon.

Stations of the Cross in Grace Cemetery at 3:00PM.

Saturday of Holy Week: April 15, Great Vigil of Easter at 7:00PM

Easter Sunday: April 16, Holy Eucharist at 7:30 (**Grace and St. John's**) and 10:00AM.

Easter Egg Hunt immediately following the 10:00AM Service.

Grace Church
of West Feliciana Parish
P.O. Box 28
St. Francisville LA 70775

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 14
St. Francisville LA 70775

Sunday Ministry Assistants & Calendar

Sunday, April 9, 2017

Acolytes: Hayden Howle, Madison Pollet, Clara Jane Hughes, Lilly Higgins
Chalice bearers: 7:30am: Carol Stamey
10am: Sheryl Wynters, Landon Anderson
Ushers: Rob Reinhardt, Shannon Pollet
Lectors: David Opperman, Justin Peno
Vestry Rep: Zed Howell
Altar Guild Team 3 & 4
Altar greenery: The Klein Family
Sanctuary Candle: Tom and Linda Flynn
Coffee Hour: Sharon Gauthier
Babysitters: Austin Roldan, Shelby Griffin

Sunday, April 16, 2017

Acolytes: Nicole Mulkey, Madison Pollet, Joseph DeJean, Julia DeJean, Clara Jane Hughes, Elizabeth Hughes
Chalice bearers 7:30am: Lucie Butler
10am: George Newton, Sheryl Wynters
Ushers: Carl Fontenot, Tony Horn, Zed Howell, Rob Howle
Lectors: Meg Kendrick, Heather Howle
Vestry Rep: Leslie Daniel
Altar Guild Team 1
Sanctuary candle: Carolyn Douglas
Coffee Hour: Mickey Melancon
Babysitters: Shelby Griffin, Madie Kane

April 9, 2017 **(Palm Sunday)**

7:30am - Eucharist
10:00am - Eucharist
Coffee Hour

April 16, 2017 **(Easter Sunday)**

7:30am - Feast of the Resurrection
(Grace and St. John's)
10:00am - Feast of the Resurrection
Egg Hunt in the cemetery

Wednesday, April 12

9:00am - Lenten Bible Study
5:15pm - Eucharist
5 - 7pm - Youth Group

Thursday, April 13 (Maundy Thursday)

9:15am - Morning Prayer
10:00am - Worship at SF Country Manor

Friday, April 14 (Good Friday)

7:00am - Eucharist Cancelled
12:00-noon - The Passion of the Lord from reserved Sacrament

3:00pm - Stations of the Cross

Saturday, April 15 (Easter Vigil)

7:00 pm - First Eucharist of Easter
Sunday, April 16 (Easter)

7:30am - Feast of the Resurrection
(Grace & St. John's)

10:00am - Feast of the Resurrection
Easter Egg Hunt

Wednesday, April 19

5:15pm - Eucharist
5-7pm - Youth Group

Thursday, April 20

9:15am - Morning Prayer
10:00am - Worship at SF Country Manor

Friday, April 21

7:00am - Eucharist
8:30am - Lectionary Bible Study