



Light of Christ Anglican Church

THE BEACON

P.O. Box 609 • Heathsville, Virginia 22473
9500 Northumberland Highway
804 580-4555 • email: lightofchristva@gmail.com



March 2021

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In The Lord's Service



Let your light so shine
before men that they may see
your good deeds and praise your
Father in heaven.
Matthew 5:16



Palm Sunday

Worship With Us
Sunday, March 28 at 10:00 a.m.



Mike's Message

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." Romans 12:2

"Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, and not frightened in anything by your opponents." Philipians 1:27-28a

"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." John 16:33

I love reading stories where evil seems to be reigning and those who oppose evil are discouraged and overwhelmed, but in the end good triumphs. I've read a lot of books and watched many movies where there is a battle between good and evil and there doesn't seem to be any hope for those who are resisting the evil forces. Of course, at the end, the main hero fighting evil comes up with some miraculous and ingenious plan, thereby saving the day. Most everyone enjoys watching or reading about good overcoming evil, because we know that there really is an insidious evil seeking to destroy those who refuse to bend their knee to the evil one but choose to serve the Lord.

One of the characteristics of those who choose to resist God and follow Satan, is that they are incredibly arrogant. They would never describe themselves as followers of Satan and may even claim to follow God, but their plans reveal that they are not led by the God of Scripture. They want those who resist their godless plans to feel overwhelmed and hopeless, and essentially to give up resisting, and shut-up and get out of the way. I love the story of the arrogance and anger of the king of Syria towards the prophet Elisha from 2 Kings 6:11-23. The king commands his armies to surround the home of Elisha so that when he comes out, they can seize him. Elisha's servant sees their situation and cries out to the prophet that they are surrounded by a mighty army. Elisha isn't the least bit concerned because he sees through the eyes of faith, and therefore the truth of the situation.

"When the servant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city. And the servant said, 'Alas, my master! What shall we do?'" ¹⁶ He said,

"Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." ¹⁷ Then Elisha prayed and said, "O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see. So, the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha."

The fear of the prophet's young servant was replaced by awe and reverence when he saw the army of the heavenly hosts of God surrounding the army of the king of Syria. Whenever I read this story, I feel a great sense of satisfaction as I consider the change of attitude that the Syrian army underwent as the story unfolds.

Today, Christians from around the world are facing persecution and strong resistance from the powers of darkness. Many Christians from Asia, and parts of Africa have been praying for Christians in the United States because they see what is coming our way and they fear that we are weak and unprepared. They read the stories of how many of the mainline denominations in this country have capitulated to the enemy camp and called it unity and godly. When they visit here, they are appalled and saddened by the immorality and godlessness of much of our culture and current political system and they see where we are heading. For many who have experienced countries that embraced Socialism or Communism the direction we seem to be heading seems awfully familiar and they wonder why we would allow this to happen. Good question.

One of the trademarks of Satan is that he is a liar and the father of lies. In John 8:44 Jesus confronts the Pharisees and says, *"You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies."*

Those were extraordinarily strong words, but Jesus did not cower and try to accommodate them for the sake of unity. Why? Because there was too much at stake. Their souls were either destined for Hell or for the eternal Kingdom of God, they needed to know the truth.

Today, the progressive politicians often say one thing and then later on deny that they said it. When confronted with a recording of what they in fact said they claim to have been taken out of context, or that they are being bullied by those awful conservatives. Mark Twain once said, *"The difference between a person who tells the truth and one who tells a lie is that the liar has to have a better memory."*

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Senior Warden Report

Your vestry met Sunday afternoon, February 21, 2021, in a semi-annual retreat/monthly meeting to discuss current church issues and set our direction for the year. We have started forward under Mike's strong leadership.

The church's outreach education programs, including "Behold Your God," have been well received by our community and local churches. We plan to continue these courses in our church and will assist other churches in their Christian education programs. In a couple of cases we are "training the trainer," helping our Christian friends start their classes.

Last fall we applied for a U.S. Government loan through the PPP program with the assistance of our bank. The program is designed to help small organizations continue their employment of people needed to accomplish their mission. We were granted \$30,400.00. This week the Small Business Administration approved our "Forgiven Request" for the entire amount of the loan. The money was spent for salaries and mortgage payments. The PPP program has been extended and the vestry voted to request another loan when the details are available.

Many thanks to each of you for your donations to the church building fund. You have reduced the amount of our mortgage to \$40,503.00. I do believe we will make our final payment in 2021.

Our dear friend, Archbishop Stephen Kaziimba, is experiencing extreme hardship in Uganda (including widespread hunger, political tension and violence) due to the impact of COVID. Stephen has requested our prayers and any assistance we can provide, and I would encourage you to consider helping as you can. Please continue to pray for Stephen, his family and the Ugandan nation.

The vestry was informed of the Thrift Shop leadership team's decision to close the business and sell the property as soon as possible. The vestry members expressed their sadness at the news and their deep appreciation of the generous support provided to our church during the past 20-plus years. We are deeply appreciative of the thousands of hours given by the volunteers to make the Thrift Shop successful.

Blessings,

George



Dear Friends: My experience has been that when the Holy Spirit talks to you it's time to listen and heed the message. I've been hearing, but not really heeding for a short while. However, a few days ago I got the sweetest call from a dear friend (from our church) saying that she has missed seeing me and

intended to call, but hadn't gotten around to it. Of course, I do this all the time, but shouldn't. What the Holy Spirit is telling me is that we need to be more intentional to not let the isolation and fracture of friendship within our church get any deeper during the Coronavirus event. I've been feeling cutoff from all of you, but I think we can use being a Phone Friend to stay in touch without risk. It would be a Win-Win for us all. What I'm suggesting is that on a periodic basis (of your choice), you call one (or more) of your friends acquaintances and just say "hello". You can do this once a week or whatever schedule works for you. Since this is my (and the Holy Spirit) idea, I'll be happy to keep track of who's getting a call. If I see there are folks who haven't had a call, I might call myself or call on someone to get in touch. No pressure here but one of the best things about our church people is their friendliness. Without any social interaction for almost a year now, being intentional on keeping this strong is particularly important, as well as worshipping. I hope you all find this idea intriguing and can offer any suggestions as to making this work. I'm eager to hear what you think.

Betty Dillingham

A prayer crumbled among the remains of Ravensbruck where 50,000 women were exterminated by Nazis.

"Oh Lord, remember not only the men and women of good will, but also those of ill will. But do not remember the suffering they have inflicted upon us.

Remember the fruits we brought thanks to this suffering: our comradeship, our loyalty, our humility, the courage, the generosity, the greatness of heart which has grown out of this. And when they come to judgment let all the fruits that we have borne be their forgiveness. Amen."

Submitted by Lydia Boyd

Sacrifice in South Asia

and the Bible

From your Anglican Frontier missionary in South Asia

In the small south Asia country where I work, animal sacrifice is still practiced. It is visible in the temples, streets and homes. Some places the smell is strong and blood is visible. To my knowledge, I have not eaten meat sacrificed to idols, but some of our brothers and sisters in South Asia sometimes have to decide whether to eat meat sacrificed to idols or not. One Christian friend said he will eat the sacrificed meat, but tells his family it does not have any power, because he only worships true power, Jesus Christ. Some churches tell their members not to participate in any part of Hindu worship, including the eating of meat sacrificed to gods, because they do not want them drawn back into Hinduism. You see in Hindu traditions, the eating of the sacrificed meat is believed to bring strength, wealth, good health, etc.



So, when I read Leviticus chapters 1 through 3, I know just how messy, smelly, difficult, and costly animal sacrifice was. To atone for their sins (to be right with God), the sinner was to bring an animal without defect, a perfect animal. In these chapters, the sinner put their hand on the animal's head, then the animal was accepted as atonement for their sin. It was the sinner's duty to slaughter, cut the animal into pieces and take out the internal organs. Then the priests splashed the blood around, arranged the parts and burnt the offering. Very messy and difficult. Sometimes the animals fight, because they know they are about to be killed.

Think ahead with me to Good Friday. How is the old testament sacrifice in Levi 1 different than Jesus's sacrifice? How is it the same? What about the sinner's (aka you and me) role, the same and different? For a simple overview see <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/sacrifice-and-atonement/>



Dear Friends:

It saddens us to write this and to inform you that we are putting the thrift shop building up for sale. Our new Heathsville location has not allowed us to sell furniture which were our "big ticket" items. Also, revenue is way down since the pandemic hit and we lost volunteers and had to resort to being open only three days a week. As you know, the purpose of the thrift shop is to fund the benevolence projects of the Women of LOC. In the two plus years we have been in the new location, we have only written one check to the Women and we haven't paid back our original loans incurred when we bought the building. We will continue to operate our normal days and hours until we get a contract on the building; then we will have a 75% off sale to start getting rid of our inventory. Whatever proceeds are left over from the sale of the building will be donated to the Women of LOC.

We want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your dedication and commitment to our wonderful little shop over the years. We have been in operation to serve the community as an outreach of Christ's love since way back to our St. Stephen's years where the shop began. Because of the dedication of our volunteers and our congregation, the shop has been able to give well over \$150,000 for the operations of the church, and the outreach programs of the Women of Light of Christ. Thank you all for your support.

In the meantime, we are still open and happy to receive your gently used household articles and Spring clothing. Thank you!

Linda Hornby

Suzy Norman

Pam Smith



Our Newest LOC Ringer

The LOC ringers are proud to present our new ringer, **Miss Sophia Hamlett**. She joins her mother and sister in the bell choir. She is an enthusiastic ringer and has already mastered her bell ringing position.



I saw a stranger today.
I put food for him
In the eating place.
And drink
In the drinking place
And music in the listening place.



Thanks to everyone that has generously donated books to the LOC library. It has been a challenge to process them all due to the Covid situation. Unfortunately, we cannot accept any more books at this time. Again, thank you.

Joyce



In the Holy name
Of the Trinity
He blessed myself
And my family.
And the lark said in her warble
Often, often, often
Goes Christ
In the stranger's guise.

O, oft, and oft and oft,
Goes Christ
In the stranger's guise.

-A Celtic Rune of Hospitality



The Northern Neck Christian School Begins Bell Ringing

The students have a new set of bells for beginning bell ringing. Each bell is a color, and the music is written as colored blocks not notes on a scale.

Below is an example using Jesus Loves Me in color notation. A long block of color represents a half note, the shorter ones are quarter notes. The student rings the bell according to the color bell they are holding. All red bells correspond to a "C" on the scale and students are arranged in keyboard order beginning with the red bell.

The Kindergarten class is learning **Jesus Loves Me** and the K4 class is learning **Kum Ba Yah**. They really enjoy learning to ring.



JESUS LOVES ME

Je -	sus	loves	me	this	I	know
For	the	Bi -	ble	tells	me	so
Lit-	tle	ones	to	Him	be -	long
They	are	weak	but	He	is	strong

} VERSE

Mike's message continued from page 2

Lying is quite common today because many have believed the lie of the Devil that truth isn't absolute and therefore doesn't matter. What matters is that people do what you want without explanation.

The proposed policies of the current administration are characterized by misdirection and subterfuge. They use verbiage that does not reveal the truth of what they are proposing. The "Equality Act HR5" has virtually nothing to do with equality and abortion has absolutely nothing to do with women's equality, privacy, or safety. *"It would amend existing civil rights laws that protect*

persons from discrimination based on race, religion, national origin, and sex to make sexual orientation and gender identity a specially protected class. If enacted, the federal government would be empowered to prosecute discrimination cases, and state laws that provide religious protections, which then would be trumped by the new federal HR 5 law. There are no religious exemption measures in the House bill. Every Christian needs to understand and pray for the defeat of this anti-Christian legislation." -Rev. Pierre Bynum

Blessings,
Mike

IN THE LORD'S SERVICE

Lesson Readers

Mar. 7 Jim Conley (L) Lyn Conley (P)
Mar. 14 Julie Pritchard (L) Tony Blackstone (P)
Mar. 21 Jeanne Hickey (L) Teresa Moffitt
Mar. 28 Jim Conley (L) Lyn Conley

Altar Guild

Mar. 7 Anna Brennan
Mar. 14 Suzy Norman
Mar. 21 Wendy Smith
Mar. 28 Julie Pritchard

March Birthdays

Mar. 3 Tiffany Elmore
Mar. 5 Marie Carstensen
Mar. 6 Tom Price
Mar. 8 Gail Feddeman
Mar. 12 Len Novak
Mar. 18 Suzy Norman
Mar. 21 Walt TeStrake, Joy Gwaltney
Mar. 25 David Peresluha
Mar. 26 Wendy Smith
Mar. 27 Vincent Haynie
Mar. 30 Morris Dillingham, Sandi Woodford

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants named above, as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Tellers

Mar. 7 Courtney Ludeman
Mar. 14 Courtney Ludeman, Jan Beckett
Mar. 21 Courtney Ludeman, Pam Smith
Mar. 28 Courtney Ludeman

Vestry Person on Duty

Mar. 7 Anna Brennan
Mar. 14 George Beckett
Mar. 21 George Beckett
Mar. 28 Anna Brennan - Palm Sunday

March Anniversaries

Mar. 1 Donna and Craig Soule
Mar. 31 Melinda Floom and Fred Wimberly

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send your blessing upon these your servants as they begin another year, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Those who leave
everything in
GOD'S HAND
will eventually see
God's hand in
everything.

The Beacon
LIGHT OF CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH
P.O. BOX 609
9500 NORTHUMBERLAND HIGHWAY
HEATHSVILLE, VIRGINIA 22473

*The deadline for the Beacon is the
third Sunday of each month.*
Suzy Norman, Editor

