

The Calvary Crier

April 2023

Calvary Presbyterian
Church



Words of Wisdom From Reverend Cheryl Kincaid

“But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”

Ephesians 2:4-7

I love this scripture in the book Ephesians because it talks about the Christ's Death and Resurrection in the light of and because of God's kindness.

“He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”

We often think of the resurrection considering God's victory. We see God's power as being triumphant over the schemes of man and power of Satan that would seek to kill the voice of Jesus by the cross.

And that is an effective way to think of resurrection. Whatever you are going through or whatever you see someone else go through, the forces of darkness do not have the last word. God will have the last word and we know this because of the empty tomb that conquers Calvary.

But there is another way to think of Christ's death and resurrection and that is that Christ's sacrifice is an expression of God's kindness overwhelming the forces of violence and strife.

God loved us and 'felt for us' when we became entangled in our sins, so His sympathy drove Jesus to earth and eventually to the cross and then triumphantly to resurrection.

What I am trying to say is that God loved us too much to leave us alone and He felt for our pain and that was motivation for Jesus to carry our pain on the cross.

Our world is lonely for kindness. So many people are left alone in their sins and hurts. As our population grows, it is tempting to treat people as cheap merchandise or as obstacles that are placed inconveniently in our way.

But God never did that.

In the book, *“Little Dorrit”* Charles Dickens tells of a virtuous young woman, Amy Dorrit, who has been born into a Debtor's Prison. Amy takes under her charge a young woman who suffers from mental retardation. One night Amy is trying to explain to that woman how much power can be found in kindness. She does this by telling a fairy tale.

In her story, there is an older woman who lives by herself, and no one visits her. But once a long time ago, someone did her a great kindness. She wanted to remember that kindness, so she stole that person's shadow (remember this is fairy tale). When the local royalty found out about her crime, they asked her why she kept the shadow. See her reply. (Continued...See Page 4)

A Word From Our Parish Associate—Donna Yanosy

Prayerful Practices for People of the Presence

Praying as You Go!

Many of us at Calvary are reading the book *Stay Salt*. In chapter 4 the author, Rebecca Manley Pippert, reminds us that we are to walk in the Spirit. We need to remember every day that God is with us and His Spirit dwells within us. We are not alone.

A couple of ideas came to our Thursday morning group as we discussed this chapter. One person talked about praying by putting on the armor of God each morning as we begin our day. From Ephesians 6:10 – 18 we read,

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.¹¹ ... ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

The armor of God is meant to be a protection for us to stay in that place of abiding in Jesus, and in the Spirit. Then, as we go about our day, we can be asking, “Where are you already at work in my world, Lord? Who are the people in my life you are seeking? Open my eyes to see!” (page 71)

And this discussion later lead me to remember a blessing attributed to Richard Halverson, former chaplain of the US Senate, entitled You go nowhere by accident.

You go nowhere by accident.

Wherever you go, God is sending you.

Wherever you are, God has put you there.

God has a purpose in your being there.

Christ lives in you and has something he wants to do through you where you are.

Believe this and go in the grace and love and power of Jesus Christ.

Our *Stay Salt* study is reminding us what our part is within this world God created. What is our purpose? May these words of blessing touch and inspire you as you seek to cooperate with the Holy Spirit in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

Rev. Donna Yanosy

Parish Associate

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A Journey of Care by Kathie Whitson

Each Sunday since autumn, a group of people have met here at the church to join along the intriguing path traveled by Much-Afraid. She is a timid woman easily persuaded by her over-fanciful imagination. She is crippled by crooked feet and a lop-sided mouth. She works for the Chief Shepherd but feels her deformities are a mockery of the work she does on His behalf and to Him personally. She longs for more out of life and to be better able to serve her kind Shepherd.

Many of us can identify with Much-Afraid and her struggles in this allegory. We too wish we would be better equipped to serve God and those we love. For those who find themselves thrust into caregiving roles that sense of feeling ill-equipped can be especially true. Fear and resentment can be very real emotions caregivers have to struggle with in their situations. The challenges Much-Afraid encounters are our challenges; her struggles to understand the vagaries of the path the Shepherd sends her on are our struggles; her tearful acceptance of the path laid before her are our tears too.

Our group has journeyed together exploring the twists and turns our lives bring to us in so many ways but all with a common thread of love. We have shared our frustrations, sorrows, hopes, and joys; through it all we have been growing to know God's sovereignty and love for us and those we love. We have been learning to submit to the hard things of life brought by crisis and to see how God gives us His grace at all times and in all places. Through our time together a bond of friendship and caring has been forged so that each of us look forward to our precious time together learning from our gentle Shepherd. We have just a few more weeks left and when our journey comes to an end, we will commit to looking for His continued guidance through the hills and valleys of life. The love we hold for each other will be the proof that we have encountered God through the pages of Hinds Feet on High Places.

Kathie Whitson



MUSIC NEWS FROM LORI BOURRET

Expressive music sung by the Choir will complement the special services of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter. Rehearsals will be on April 23 and 30.



Continued from page 1

“It was the shadow of someone who had gone by long before: of someone who had gone on far away quite out of reach, never, never to come back. It was bright to look at; and when the tiny woman showed it to the Princess, she was proud of it with all her heart, as a great, great treasure. When the Princess had considered it a little while, she said to the tiny woman, “And you keep watch over this every day?” And she cast down her eyes, and whispered, “Yes.” Then the Princess said, “Remind me why.” To which the other replied, “that no one so good and kind had ever passed that way, and that was why in the beginning.” She said, too, “that nobody missed it, that nobody was the worse for it, that someone had gone on, to those who were expecting him—”

I like that story, even though it is fanciful, because it shows the power of even the shadow of kindness. We cast our shadow in many places in our lives, what remnant do they leave?

None of us were alive during Calvary, but we still stand in the shadow of Cross, we live in the echoes of resurrection.

May we leave shadows worthy of contemplation and emotions that can be cherished.

“Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

1 John 4:11

APRIL BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

A Picture From
Our March
“Birthday Celebration”



16 Ann & Peter duPlessis

4 Lori Bourret
7 Gary Hess
21 Carol Rinkavage





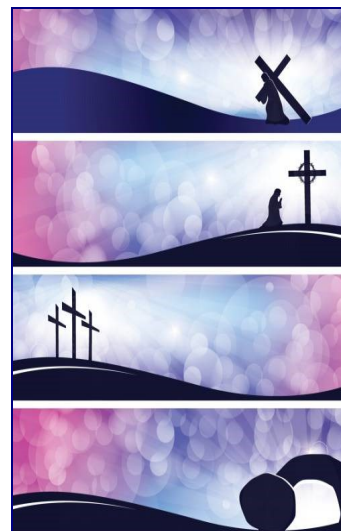
Our Lenten Celebration



EASTER SEASON AT CALVARY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

EASTER HOLY WEEK SERVICES

- 4/2 Palm Sunday 10:00 AM
- 4/6 Maundy Thursday 7:00 PM
- 4/7 Good Friday Prayer Station
12:00 PM – 3:00 PM
- 4/9 Sunrise Service Here at Calvary 6:00 AM
Sunday Church Service 10:00 AM



EASTER PLANTS

The Worship Committee is accepting orders for Easter plants
“In Memory Of” or “In Honor Of” a loved one. The plants will be
displayed in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 9th .

The Easter plants (potted Easter Lily) or (potted Easter Daffodils) will cost
\$9.00 each.. To place your order, please contact Janice Singer at

860) 763-2936. Please place your orders by April 5th. Checks should be
made payable to Janice Singer. If you would like to mail Check, please
send to: Janice Singer, 19 White Oak Road, Somers, CT 06071. You may
take your plant home following the Easter worship service or you may request
that your plant be delivered to a church shut-in by our Deacons.





CHRIST AROSE

Low in the grave he lay, Jesus my Savior,
waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!

Up from the grave he arose;
with a mighty triumph o'er his foes;
he arose a victor from the dark domain,
and he lives forever, with his saints to reign.
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!

The May "Calvary Crier" Articles need to be submitted by APRIL 24,