

Ministering God's Love



Cultivating Faith

THE KING'S VOICE

FEBRUARY 2016

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JOY TO THE WORLD IN FEBRUARY...MARCH...APRIL....!

By Dorene Royal

A funny thing happened in Darlington, Maryland several years ago. Edith, a mother of eight, was coming home from a neighbors house one Saturday afternoon. As she walked into the living room, she saw five of her youngest children huddled together, concentrating with intense interest on something. As she slipped near them, trying to discover the center of attraction, she couldn't believe her eyes. Right dab in the middle were five baby skunks. She screamed at the top of her voice, 'CHILDREN, RUN!!!' Each child grabbed a skunk and ran!

Life's like that sometimes. You are going full steam ahead, with the wind in your sails, when you suddenly hit a sand bar. It is like confronting a room full of skunks. You just want to get out of the room. Maybe you are confused, angry, and discouraged. All you know is all of the sudden, your JOY is gone. There are so many things that seek to rob us of Joy. Circumstances can shake our faith, people will discourage us, and 'things' distract us from what God wants us to enjoy.

Jesus said in John 15:11, "These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full." Do you know what was going on when He said these words? He was approaching Gethsemane! That seems like a strange time to talk of joy. In half an hour or less, He would be praying until He was bleeding from His brow and wrestling with the weight of the sins of the world. There can be no better guide into the experience of joy in your life than One who was so full of joy that He could speak of His joy in the approaching hour of His death!

I believe that one of the missing commodities of life today is joy. There is little good news on the television or in the newspaper. Even consider the weather report. Often you hear, "Tomorrow will be cloudy with a 20% chance of rain." When was the last time you heard a weather report say, "Mostly clear with 80% chance of sunshine?"

Jim and I took our grandchildren to see the movie, Inside Out. It is the tale of a young girl named Riley and the emotions that govern her – each emotion takes on a cartoon character, Joy, Sadness, Anger, Fear and Disgust are the main characters. As long as joy is in control, Riley is happy and life is good, however, disaster strikes when Anger, Fear and Disgust take over, and Sadness keeps touching the core memories and Riley falls into a deep depression. All is solved when Joy returns to the controls. This simple child's movie shows us that Joy is a necessity of life!

I believe what the world needs is a 'JOY infusion'. However there is confusion as to what joy really is. Even Christians have a hard time believing in joy, and many have a hard time *maintaining* it.

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What is joy?

First, let's determine what joy is not. True joy is not getting something you have long desired. It is not the love of a spouse or a child. It is not money, fame, achievements, success. Oh, these things can bring a measure of happiness for a while, but they quickly fade.

Chuck Swindoll says that joy is a matter of attitude that stems from your relationship and confidence in God. Joy is the absence of fear and anxiety. Joy is the belief that He is at work, that He is in full control, that He is in the middle of whatever has happened, is happening or will happen.

Think of Paul – what a great example of joy for us to examine! If there was anyone who had a reason to give in to despair and claim that he was a victim of his circumstances, it was the apostle Paul. From his prison house in Rome, Paul writes one of the most joy filled letters anyone could ever read. Paul refused to be preoccupied with the woes of life. Listen to his words: Rejoice in the Lord always, I will say it again, rejoice! (Phillipians 3).

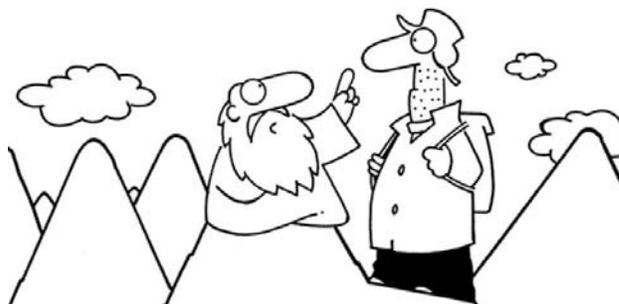
How do we find joy?

We know that people and things are not the source of joy – how do we find joy, a true joy that never fades or fails?

Psychology Today informs us that happiness is external. It is based on situations, events, people, thoughts. It is connected to your hopes; it is future oriented and puts all the eggs in someone else's basket. This article goes on to say that joy comes from deeply held spiritual beliefs and is not rocked by anything.

Acts 2:28 gives us a clue. "You have made known to me the ways of life; You will enrapture me [diffusing my soul with joy] with and in Your presence." (Acts 2:28 Amplified) In order to have the joy of the Lord, you have to intimately know the Lord of the joy. Joy comes from living in His presence and recognizing that Jesus is the CENTER of our joy.

I had an elderly professor in seminary that ended her Theology classes with these words: "Practice the presence of the Lord." I didn't realize that she had learned them herself while studying the teachings of Brother Lawrence, a 17th century monk who wrote a book on the topic. The words fell on student-ears that didn't quite understand, but she said them so often that we had them memorized. As I have gone through life, experienced the loss of a child, the rejection of a spouse, the pain that comes from disappointment and tragedy, these words now mean something to me. Practice: a repeated exercise or activity in order to improve. Presence: immediate vicinity; proximity. Joy comes from repeatedly making oneself available to the proximity of God. The Psalmist David articulated it perfectly: In Your Presence there is fullness of joy. (Psalm 16:11). Happiness comes from without, but true joy dwells deep and comes from the Lord.



Verizon says the key to happiness is cheaper cell phone service, but Fruit of the Loom says the key to happiness is comfy undies. On the other hand, the Pillsbury Dough Boy says...."

JOY ~ Continued from page 2

I've always been an observer of people and one of the things that dismays me is when I see an older person who looks like they have spent their entire life eating a lemon. I do not want to become a great grandmother and look like that! Thinking back on my beloved elderly professor with her radiant face, I believe living a life of Joy in God's presence beautifies a person. Charles Spurgeon said, "There is a marvelous medicinal power in joy. One dolorous spirit brings a plague into the house and one person who is wretched stops all the birds from singing, but the grace of joy is contagious. Holy joy will strengthen you, beautify you and give you an influence over the lives of others."

Joy is ours, 365 days a year, if we learn its secret...practicing and living in His presence; only He is the source of our joy.



Keeping a Holy Lent

What is Lent?

Lent is a season of preparation leading up to Easter. It is the forty days plus the six Sundays before Easter. For centuries, it has been observed as a special time of self examination and penitence. Lent is a time for concentration on fundamental values and priorities, and is not a time for self punishment. Throughout Lent, the worship services of the church take on a simpler tone, appropriate to this season. Banners are removed from the church. Crosses showing the risen Christ are veiled. The word Alleluia, is not used in the words of the liturgy or hymns. These practices help the worshipping community to mark this season of renewal as a special time in the church year.

Observing Lent

The custom is to mark the season of Lent by giving up some things and taking on others. Both can serve to mark the season as a holy time of preparation. Some examples of things people give up for Lent include sweets, meat for all or

some meals, and alcohol. In most cases, giving up something for Lent can be made more meaningful by using the money or time for another purpose. For example, meal times on fast days could be spent in prayer. Another example is that if you give up meat during Lent, the extra money that would go to meat dishes can be given to a group, such as World Vision, which works to end hunger worldwide. Some things added during Lent are daily Bible reading, fasting on Fridays, times of prayer, taking a course of study related in some way to spirituality. Note that the season of Lent is forty days plus the six Sundays. This is because Sundays are celebrations of Jesus' resurrection and are always an appropriate day to lessen the restrictions of Lent. So that if you have, for example, given up chocolate for Lent, you could indulge in a weekly candy bar on Sunday.

Lent is also an especially appropriate time for the sacrament of confession. While confession to a priest is not required to receive God's forgiveness, it can be a meaningful rite of reconciliation to God

Special Days and Services

Shrove Tuesday

This is actually the day before Lent begins. The day is named for the shriving or confessing that was traditional on this day before beginning Lent. This day is also known as Mardi Gras, or, Fat Tuesday, because it was a time for eating the things from which one would abstain during Lent. Pancake suppers are traditional as they were a way of using up some of the ingredients not needed during Lent.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner



Ash Wednesday

The first day of Lent is marked with a special liturgy. The theme for the day, though not for all of Lent, is that we stand as sinners condemned to die, but for God's grace. This is symbolized by the imposition of ashes on the forehead, with the words, You are dust and to dust you shall return.. In the Old Testament, ashes were a sign of penitence (feeling regretful at offenses) and mourning.

Ash Wednesday is one of two days of special observance (the other being Good Friday) for which fasting is recommended. While this usually refers going without food for the entire day, this practice is not practical for all persons, including, but not limited to, diabetics. Use your own discretion in determining how you can best observe this day.



Services 12pm & 7pm

Stations of the Cross

These are depictions of 14 incidents in the Gospel accounts of Jesus death from Pilates house to being placed in the tomb. They are used for the service called the Way of the Cross, which visits each station in turn with a brief reading, response, collect and on some occasions, a meditation. This is particularly appropriate for Good Friday and all Fridays in Lent.



Refreshment Sunday

The fourth Sunday of Lent has long been observed as a day for completely relaxing the disciplines of Lent. It is also known as Mothering Sunday as this was the first Mother's Day and a traditional time for remembering your mother.



Palm Sunday

This Sunday before Easter is the last Sunday in Lent. The day commemorates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem with a blessing of palms and a procession in which the whole congregation carries palms.

The day is also marked by reading the story of Jesus' passion (the word used to describe Jesus' death comes from suffering, which is one old meaning of passion). Some of the Palm Sunday palms are kept and used to make the Ash Wednesday ashes for the next year.

Maundy Thursday

This is the Thursday in Holy Week (the week leading up to Easter). The day is a time for remembering The Last Supper. The name comes from the Latin word, *Maundatum* for commandment. As Jesus said, "I give you a new commandment; that you love one another." At the conclusion of this service, altars are stripped of any ornamentation and crosses are removed or veiled to mark the solemnness of the occasion.



Good Friday

The Friday in Holy Week is a time for remembering Jesus' death. Traditionally there is a Good Friday service at noon as Jesus hung on the cross from noon until 3 P.M. There may also be an evening service. This is the second day of special observance for which fasting is recommended. One should use discretion in deciding how best to observe this day. There is no celebration of Communion from Maundy Thursday until the Easter Vigil on late Saturday or early Sunday. However, it is customary in many churches to give out the elements of communion blessed during the Maundy Thursday service.



The Easter Vigil

This service is appropriate from after sunset on Holy Saturday until sunrise Easter morning. This was the traditional time of baptism in the early centuries of Christianity. This service begins in darkness and a new fire is lit, from which the Christ candle is lighted. It signifies the light of Christ coming into the world anew at the resurrection. This service ends the season of



Notes from the office

By now everyone should have received their 2015 contribution statement. If you have not, please look on the table in the hall. If you still do not see it, call me and I will send one out to you. If you need giving envelopes or a name badge, please call me for those as well.

I am proud to announce that my mom FINALLY retired at the age of 85. She is one amazing woman.

Deacon's Corner

I recently attended a Diocesan meeting about the "Episcopal Relief and Development" (ERD) fund. This is an outreach program sponsored by the National Episcopal Church for a great many years, even under a different name. It concentrates on missions, disaster relief, and development to grow into a self sustaining people/church. This will become a part of the CTK Missions and Outreach. I recall that at one of the many churches Jan and I have attended over the years, one congregation came up with the idea to help find some additional funds for Mission and Outreach without members reducing their annual pledge. The idea was each member would write a check to Missions and Outreach on their birthday in the amount of \$1.00 for each year of age. If you are 42; then on your birthday you would put a check in the plate with your monthly envelope in the amount of \$42.00. As I mentioned, this was over and above their individual pledge. I think about Scripture in Matthew 25:40, where Jesus says, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me". Jesus tells us to take care of the orphans, the sick, the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, those in prison, in our country and in foreign countries. With the birthday offering, going to Missions and Outreach, we would be able to do so much more of what Jesus tells us, to take care of those who really need it.

So, I suggest that we at Christ the King start the practice of the birthday offering and that we start on November 29th since that is the first Sunday of Advent and the beginning of a new liturgical year. This is just a suggestion and Jan and I are going to participate. This is not required, just a suggestion – what we give is strictly between each of us and God.

Bob Dinnerville

INCOME

December 6	\$3622.02
December 13	\$2201.00
December 20	\$2082.00
December 24	\$511.00
December 27	\$1053.00
TOTAL	\$9,669.02

Financials for December 2015

EXPENSES

TOTAL	\$7,148.00
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M I N I S T R Y S C H E D U L E

Ministry area	February 7	February 14	February 21	February 28
Celebrant	Mother Carolyn	Mother Carolyn	Mother Carolyn	Father Roger
Deacon	Ed Tatlian	Bob Dinnerville	Ed Tatlian	Bob Dinnerville
LEM2	Martha griggs	David Biggs	Paige Sharrow	Bob Springthorpe
Acolyte - Server	Mitchell Parrish	Elizabeth Hospedales	Liam Borden	Elvon Hospedales
Acolyte - Cross/bells	Jacob Heist	Clive Borden	Madyson Dawson	Mitchell Parrish
Acolyte-Collection	Nathanial Heist	Joey Beck	Ayden Dawson	Alexander Parrish
Acolyte -Gospel	John Beck	Peyton Dawson	Joh Beck	Grace Fernburg
Old Testament	Martha Griggs	Jim Royal	David Biggs	Jan Dinnerville
New Testament	Veda Dwyer	Sharon Rogers	Stacey May	Wade Griggs
Prayers of the people	Jan Dinnerville	Ed Tatlian	Paige Sharrow	Bob Dinnerville
Greeters./ushers	Betty & Claire	Jack & Wade	Terry & Cherryl	Debbie & Jack
Pre k (paid)	Debbie	Colleen	Debbie	Colleen
Children's Chapel	Andrea Borden Dorene Royal	Pam Sharrow Bob Dinnerville	Jessica Beck Ed Tatlian	Andrea Borden Dorene Royal
Prayer Team	Wade & Stacey	Jim & Joy	Wade & Jim	Marilyn & Joy
Altar Guild	Diane & Carolyn	Diane & Carolyn	Christina & Jo Ann	Christina & Jo Ann
Vestry Counters	Josh & Marilyn	Josh & Marilyn	Josh & Marilyn	Josh & Marilyn
Kitchen	Joy & Ines	Cathy & Claire	Marty & Jean	Betty & Susan

February 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		B – Joey Beck				
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Christian Ed & Adult class 9am Holy Communion 10am Children's Chapel 10am *WORLD MISSION DAY		Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 5p.m.-7p.m.	Ash Wednesday Services 12:00 P.M. and 7:00 P.M. B – Jim Royal			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Christian Ed & Adult class 9am Holy Communion 10am Children's Chapel 10am 1 st Sunday in Lent		B – Ray Sharrow	Spiritual Disciplines 7:00 p.m. B – Liam Borden	Vestry Meeting 6:30 P.M.		A – Jan & Bob Dinnerville
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Christian Ed & Adult class 9am Holy Communion 10am Children's Chapel 10am S.S. Meeting after service		B – Janine Erlenbaugh B – Chris Leiva				
28	29					
Christian Ed & Adult class 9am Holy Communion 10am Children's Chapel 10am A – Debbie & Jack Dale						