



'Till We Meet Again!

Week of October 3 and 4, 2020

REFLECTION FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2020:

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's support, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Response: *I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.*

Affirmation of baptism in the presence of a community of faith

Greetings my friends,

The above, or similar words were shared with all of us when we were either "confirmed" or whenever you might have affirmed your baptism as part of a worship celebration. Sometimes, I believe, it is good to be reminded of the promises that we have made to God.

To live among God's faithful people. To be an active participant among the people God has shared with us as co-journeymen in our voyage of life in our pilgrimage within a community of faith. To offer our help, support, and affirmation to the people around us in our community of faith. To share our thoughts, opinions, and our resources to uplift God's faithful people.

To hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper. To not only be physically present to actually "hear" Holy Scrip-

ture shared in worship, to not only be physically present to actually receive the Lord's supper, but to open our ears, our hearts, our minds, to allow these gifts of life to actually influence and transform our lives.

To proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed. To not only talk the talk of Christ on a Sunday morning at worship, but to allow our Christian belief to permeate every minute of every day. To realize that how we treat the cashier at our local grocery store, how we view the homeless person standing on the corner, how we think about and treat our sisters and brothers in Christ, all reveal how it is our life proclaims the good news of God through our words and deeds.

To serve all people. Not just to serve our own needs, the needs of our immediate family, the needs of the next-door neighbors who we like, but rather to open ourselves and our lives to attempt to serve all people. To realize that we are part of a much larger community network than we can possibly image, that our decisions may impact people's lives in the middle East, the far East, the city-dwellers, and the farmers. We are all connected to one another and called to serve one another.



To strive for justice and peace in all the earth. To use the forums that God has provided to lift our voices in support of justice and peace. To publicly proclaim the injustices that we witness and to work together to bring about justice. To not

speaking in anger desiring vengeance. To not seek violence or war but rather to seek peace (Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. Romans 12:2)

These are but a very limited amount of responses to each of the promises that we have made to our Lord. This promise was never intended to be a "once and done" promise, but rather a lifestyle that transforms our very life, our whole life, every day of our life, in service to God's calling for each of us individually and communally.

Yes, we will fall short. Yes, there will be times when we falter and fail. Yes, there will be moments when we desire to throw our hands up in the air and simply "give up." Thanks be to God for Jesus Christ!

For in all our shortcomings and failings, Christ offers forgiveness and promises to give us support to continue our way.

Sometimes my friends, a reminder like this is best heard in the presence of an assembly in the midst of a worship celebration; but sometimes, a reminder like this might be better heard when we can reflect in our own time and place to allow these words to actually influence and transform the whole of our life.

God calls us to dedicate our whole life to be lived in discipleship, not just our Sunday mornings but also our Friday nights. God, calls us to be "light" to the whole world (If you are filled with light, with no dark corners, then your whole life will be radiant, as though a floodlight were filling you with light." Luke 11:36), not just our immediate family, but for those whom we view as standing opposed to us.

May God's promised blessings reside with us in all times

and in all places:

"We give You thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit You give us new birth, cleanse us from our sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in Your people the gift of Your Holy Spirit; the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in Your presence, both now and forever. Amen."

Until next time,

Keep trusting God, washing those hands, and be at peace with one another.

PJ

REFLECTION FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2020

BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD

Psalm 46

***¹God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.***

***²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth
should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of
the sea;***

***³though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.***

***⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the
city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.***

***⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall not
be moved;***

God will help it when the morning dawns.

***⁶The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.***

***⁷The LORD of hosts is
with us;
the God of Jacob is
our refuge.***

***⁸Come, behold the
works of the LORD;
see what desolations he
has brought on the earth.***

***⁹He makes wars cease to
the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow,***



**and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.
¹⁰"Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth."**

**¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.**

Amid everything that is happening in our world and in our lives, what keeps you up at night? I think that is an important question to ask. The things that keep us up at night tend to be the things that we are most concerned with now. If you are like me, you are up a lot at night.

When I lay my head on my pillow, I tend to fall asleep quickly but then wake up in the middle of the night because my brain is going a mile a minute. I think about how our lives have changed with covid-19. I miss the days when we could just go out and eat or shop or visit or go places without concern for masks or viruses. I long for the day when that will be possible again.

I think about the state of our nation during a hotly contested election cycle. I see neighbors putting up sign after sign indicating who they support. No surprise there are people who live next door to each other who support the opposite parties' candidate. In some places it almost seems as if they are trying to "out sign" each other. I worry what will happen when the election is over. Will we be even more divided? Will there be even more hostility with each other?

I think about our community of faith, especially those who have not been able to worship for more than five months. People for whom worship was a regular part of life are not able to worship. I know that we are working on the Bring it home ministry and that gives me some comfort. I wonder how people are feeding their spiritual side, how they are enhancing their relationship with God and each other. Times are challenging enough without the regular nourishment and support of a worshipping community.

I think about the work to be done to im-

agine how our three congregations might come together as one unified congregation. There are so many good people working on the transitional team and subgroups. I wonder when we will be able to have town halls to talk about a single congregation and how we might officially come together for the sake of the Gospel. I know the angst people are feeling with all the potential changes, new traditions, possibly a new building, and staff changes.

And that does not even begin to highlight some of the more personal things I think about which keep me up at night. No wonder some days I feel like I did not sleep a wink the night before. And then I am reminded of the words of Psalm 46, be still and know that I am God. Those words have seen me through some of the most difficult times in my life.

We are so blessed that we can call on God during our times of joy and our times of need. By myself I can not solve all the issues that weigh heavily on my mind. God can handle all of them. God will carry me when I am weak as God carries you too. God does not forsake us and is always present with us to comfort us, to support us, to hold us up, and to love us.

I do not know what keeps you up at night, but I do know that God is with you in every sleepless moment. God is with you when you are celebrating and when you are grieving. God is with you when you are laughing and when you are crying. There is not one moment of your life when God is not with you. May God's presence and strength be a source of comfort to you and guide you into peaceful rest.

In Peace,
Pastor Suzanne

GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS



Please read these important updates on UPG Outreach from God's Work.Our Hands and Stewards, Angels in Ministry.

"Days" of Service - That's correct - this fall

there will be several “Days” of Service instead of one specific day. When conditions are safe, we will schedule the Youth Car Wash (Josh Gulotta) and the Ft. Hill Cemetery Clean-up (Cindy Kemp). The same will be true of the intergenerational rock painting (Lois Ritchie). Dates to be announced later.

During the summer, Louise Fielding, Jean Finn, Elizabeth Elterich, Kathy Stephen and Helga Rimonneau have sewn and filled twenty-five bags with school supplies for Lutheran World Relief (funded by a Thrivent Action Team).

Mat Ministry - SOS!! We need many more



hands to turn the plastic bags we’ve collected into plarn for those who are crocheting mats. The process is quite easy - take

each bag, smooth it out lengthwise, fold it several times upon itself until you have a narrow strip, cut off the handles at the top (making sure to cut off any curved edges), cut off the seam at the bottom, fold the strip in half and cut at the folded edge, fold again in half and cut again at the folded edge. You should now have 4 strips that can be fastened together by looping the ends of the strips over each other and pulling gently to keep the knot as small as possible. Keep knotting strips together until they can be rolled up into a ball. Please save your plastic scraps and any bags that were not usable and bring them and your balls of plarn to the back porch of Light of Christ. You will see where to put them. Additional bags for making plarn are available on the porch at Light of Christ. PLEASE HELP - thank you!

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR THE MILITARY

The Bleier family is collecting Christmas cards to be sent to the U.S. active duty military. The cards may be purchased or handmade with a personal greeting addressed to Dear Warrior and signed only with your



first name, city, and state. Homemade cards should not be larger than an 8x11 sheet folded in half. Cards do not need to be in an envelope, if enclosed in an envelope, do not seal envelope. Please keep in mind that our military troops are diverse in their holiday practices and beliefs. Contact Joe by email or cell at bleier.joe.amy@gmail.com or (610) 737-6613 to arrange pick up. We are hoping to have all the cards collected by October 25, 2020. For more information feel free to contact us or visit www.militaryholidaycardchallenge.com.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School will be held indoors beginning this Sunday, October 4, 2020 from 9:30-10:30 AM on our LOC Campus. Wearing masks is required.



Classes are held for children ages three by October 1st through adults. We welcome all!!! Please call or email Lynn Terry with any questions about our safety procedures lynnjt680@verizon.net 610-554-4090.

The first two confirmation classes will be held on October 4th and 11th from 6:00-7:00 PM on our LOC Campus. The first class will be held in the sanctuary and the 2nd class will be held in the fellowship hall. We are looking forward to resuming these classes in-person with our young people!

NOW VIRTUAL...THE 5TH ANNUAL MONOCACY FARM FOOD FEST HAS A NEW DATE!

Visit Monocacyfarmproject.org, Facebook, or Instagram for more details or updates about

our Online Auction which will Begin on Oct. 19 at 11:00 AM and end on Oct. 24th at 5:00 PM. Our popular goodie bags will be available for sale and go to all auction winners! There will be online info sessions and demos. All proceeds benefit the Monocacy Farm Project in Bethlehem, PA.



We’re extremely grateful for your

support. Thank you for helping to make our annual fundraising festival a success.

CLOTHING DRIVE WHAT'S IN YOUR CLOSET?

Has Covid-19 given you the time to clean out your closets, but nowhere to donate your gently used items to? With Salvation Army & Goodwill Stores not currently accepting donations, you might be left "holding the bags"!



We Can Help!!

The youth of Jordan Lutheran Church (Vicar Jamie's home church) are holding a clothing drive. They invite you to bring your bagged items to the outdoor worship service held at the NE Penn Synod Office (2354 Grove Road, Allentown) where Vicar Jamie will collect them and take them to Jordan Lutheran Church. The items will be collected from Jordan Lutheran by a company that pays for the lump sum of items by the pound. All items are then sold inexpensively to thrift shops in third world countries, Mexico and even the United States. Items are not shredded or made into rags.

Drop Off Deadline: October 5, 2020.

The following items are accepted: Gently used clothing and shoes (men's, women's and children's), purses, belts, backpacks, hats, scarves, briefcases, gloves, ties, blankets, table cloths, bed sheets, curtains and drapes, pillows, towels, quilts, comforters, stuffed animals, bicycles. No other items accepted!

Proceeds from the collection will be donated to Camp Noah on behalf of Jordan Lutheran and the UPG/St. John's Windish.

Camp Noah is a nationally acclaimed resiliency and preparedness day camp that brings hope to children living in communities impacted by disaster.

CROP WALK

The CROP Hunger Walk will kick off at 1:00 PM, Sunday, October 11. This year's event will be

very different from past years due to restrictions and concerns of the pandemic. We will not walk as one large group, rather small groups from the participating churches will plan their own routes and individuals may walk their own route separately. For information, e-mail bethcropwalk@att.net or call 610-216-3567.

Our three campuses each have a representative you can speak with: Donna Mackaravitz (Light of Christ), Penny Weiss (St. John's Windish) or Cindy Kemp (St. Peter's). You can also register or donate online now. Go to the Bethlehem webpage, <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/bethlehempa>. From there you can donate to our UPG team or a specific walker or even register yourself to join us.

Looking forward to seeing you on October 11.

ALL AGE YOUTH GROUP AND FAMILY EVENT



Please join us for an all age youth group and family event at the Unangst Tree Farms Pumpkin

Patch on Saturday, October 10, 2020. Plan to arrive/meet at 10:00 AM at Unangst Tree Farm, 7317 Beth Bath Pike, Bath, PA 18014. Masks required! No corn shed this year! At 10:15 AM we will be taking a group photo and hayride to the pumpkin patch with group discounts on pumpkins at checkout under UPG. At 11:00 AM families can enjoy the following items on their own: Petting Zoo, Farm Market, Snack Stand, Large Maze (discounts may apply) 1 hour, Small Maze (discounts may apply) 15 minutes. Depart at your convenience. Please visit www.unangst-treefarm.com for more information. No raindate scheduled. To sign up, please contact Tracy Haas at 610-533-9145.

IN PERSON INDOOR WORSHIP

The UPG will return to indoor, in person worship beginning on October 4, 2020 on the St. Peter's campus at 8:00 AM and 11:00 AM. It

will be wonderful to be able to gather “face mask” to “face mask”. Although we will still need to keep a six-foot social distance, we will be able to see everyone’s bright smiling faces above their facemasks.



When you arrive at the church building, all able bodied people are encouraged to use the Packer Avenue entrance. Only two doors will be available (Packer Avenue and the door near the elevator). We would like to limit the number of people using the elevator. You will be greeted by an usher who will instruct you where you should sit. Likely you will not be sitting “in your normal” seat. Accept the change in seating as an opportunity to see things from a different perspective. Holy Communion will be administered differently from our usual custom. Flexibility is a word you will hear often, and your cooperation is greatly appreciated and expected. We are all working together for the common good.

As leaders of our congregations we are doing our best to open our buildings and keep everyone safe. We know that we cannot meet everyone’s needs and desires at this time. Be patient with us and with each other. Be flexible and accepting as we work together. Please keep our leaders and staff in your prayers as we work to return to our “new” normal.



**THIS WEEK IN THE UPG
OCTOBER 3—OCTOBER 11**

Saturday October 3

4:45 PM Worship (Facebook)

Sunday October 4

8:00 AM Worship (St. P)
9:30 AM Sunday School (LoC)
11:00 AM Worship (St. P)

Monday October 5

7:00 PM Coffee & Conversation (Zoom)

Tuesday October 6

9:00 AM Staff Meeting (Zoom)

Wednesday October 7

7:00 AM Fellowship Meeting

Thursday October 8

6:30 PM Bible Study (Zoom)

Friday October 9

Saturday October 10

4:45 PM Worship (Facebook)

Sunday October 11

8:00 AM Worship (LoC)
9:30 AM Sunday School (LoC)
11:00 AM Worship (LoC)