

## MEDITATIONS FROM JULY 2017 SUNDAY BULLETINS

### **FREEDOM TO BE**

July 2, 2017

Rev. Janet Friedline

We speak a great deal about freedom. We want to be free to chase our dreams, to be successful and live the abundant life. We want to be happy, fulfilled and satisfied. And each of us seeks in a personal way to meet our goals. Our first attempts are directed in an outward way, promoting our talents and inclinations. Much consideration is given to our education and occupation, certain that these are the avenues through which our good will come to us.

In time, we notice that meeting our goals did not always bring the satisfaction we had anticipated and we find us chasing still yet another dream. It is time to step back and look at life in a different way. What is important? What really matters? True freedom is a quality of inner Being. Satisfaction and fulfillment belong to the soul of man and it is there that the issues of life are met. We no longer seek in the outer for what can only be found in the inner. This is the way, walk ye in it.

### **BE A WITNESS**

July 9, 2017

Rev. Janet Friedline

Life brings us the opportunity to experience in different way. We pursue our talents and inclinations, developing areas of skill and expertise. There are times when we are called upon to share what we have learned with others. Some may serve as teachers or mentors in classrooms and lecture halls. Other times are more casual or informal, sharing thoughts and ideas with friends and family when they seek our advice. Whatever the occasion, we are asked to bear witness to what we know.

When we share what we learned in the schools of education, what comes out is the result of academic study. When it comes to our spiritual life, we bear witness, to who we are, by living it as our daily experience. It is not necessarily the words we use, but rather the state of consciousness we are in when we say them. When we speak from the center of our being, what comes out is not ours, but his who hath sent us. We bear witness to the indwelling presence by allowing it to do the work. All glory is given to God.

### **BE A JOYFUL GIVER**

July 16, 2017

Rev. Donna Gatewood

God's love is the foundation for everything that is good, lovely, beautiful, kind and gentle on earth and throughout the universe. And it is God's love that provides for our every need whether it be food, clothing, a place to live, our good health, or our joyous moments.

What God gives, He gives of Himself and we are the good stewards of these treasures. They are not given to us to hoard and keep to ourselves or to mete out in little bits to those we favor. God's gifts are

given to us so that we may enjoy them and share them with others so that they may be enjoyed by many and not just a few.

Let us give to others with generous hearts knowing that it is not we that give, but it is the Father giving through us. We are the instruments our Father uses to show forth His goodness and generosity here on earth. Let us give freely of His bountiful gifts; let us give with generous hearts so that our Father's love and infinite blessings can be experienced by all.

### **WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?**

July 23, 2017

Rev. Donna Gatewood

More than ever before the world is in need of love. It is in need of a love greater than that which we understand and profess from our human intellect. We are in need of the love that Jesus, the Christ, practiced—the eternal unconditional love of God.

Jesus taught us that we are to love the Lord, our God, with all our hearts, minds and souls and He further commanded that we love our neighbors as our self. When He said that we are to love others as we love our self, do you think He was talking about our little human self—our personality and our ego? Or do you think He was talking about our Greater Self—the Christ within?

Generally speaking, it appears that human beings, as a whole, only love and care for their little self and the Greater Self, the Christ, the only begotten of God, is cast aside for the pursuit of worldly endeavors and pleasures. The world will never be a place of love, peace or joy until we can release our hold on our love of the little self and begin to recognize and love God, our Greater Self.

When we are able to discard the little self and all of the things that it holds dear, we are prepared to love the Christ within us and within all of God's wondrous creation without hesitation or condition. Jesus was love in action; let us follow in His footsteps so that we may show others that God is Love.

### **I HAVE MEAT**

July 30, 2017

Rev. Janet Friedline

As human beings, we require certain things. We all have definite ideas about what we want and how it should come about. We call these things "our good," and the desire is to have it made manifest. And then there is the matter of our happiness and satisfaction. We seek fulfillment, that feeling of contentment and personal approval. We are certain that if our needs are met in a material way, that we will feel secure in what we have chosen to be our way of life.

But Jesus told us that he had meat the world knows not of. We understand that "meat" refers to our sustenance, to that which sustains and maintains us. Apparently Jesus knew of a source of being that was not the material manifestation. Jesus knew of the invisible realm of life, out of which all things are made. The creative activity, of this realm of life, brings forth after its kind, taking the form necessary to meet the need. The promise is "before they call, I have already answered." Be still and know that this is so.