

MEDITATIONS FROM JANUARY 2018 SUNDAY BULLETINS

A TIME TO REMEMBER

January 7, 2018

Rev. Janet Friedline

When we begin a new time of experience, we tend to look back and reflect on the time that is past. We may look forward to the latest adventure, but part of us still clings to what is over. And we wonder why we do this. Why do we linger in the memories of what has ended? Perhaps we have left things unsettled, or wish we had handled them differently. We may be a little anxious about the new time; we really don't know what to expect.

Life moves us forward into new places. This is the natural order of progress, transitioning in and out of experience. We should welcome the change, greet it with anticipation and expectation, considering it an opportunity to grow and learn. When we reflect on past times, let us take the meat from the experience and leave the empty shell. Let us not judge what we have done. In our time of meditation, we remember from whence we came. Regardless of where we find us, God is there. This is really all we need to know.

LIFE ANNOUNCES ITSELF

January 14, 2018

Rev. Janet Friedline

Many individuals experience life by reliving the past, or projecting themselves into the future. We know that life "happens" and we feel our input is necessary in order for it to come about according to our plans and expectations. The desire is to take control of what comes our way, hoping for certain results. We have also noticed that other things come into play, things that are outside of our demands and our wishes. Perhaps our attention should be given to the moment, allowing life to present what belongs to the moment, without judgment.

We have noticed that the flower blooms without our invitation to do so. We have noticed that the sun rises and sets without our direction. Life announces itself according to a pattern larger than the one assigned to the individual. To listen in the moment, allows us to be one with the activity that moves us beyond the expectations of the personal self. Infinite wisdom places us in the stream of life that is best for us. "Be still and know" is the invitation to come up higher. Let us choose to do so.

CHRIST IN YOU

January 21, 2018

Rev. Donna Gatewood

In First Corinthians chapter 3, verse 16 we are asked, "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God; and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" Have you ever taken the time to sit and contemplate the meaning of this very profound and powerful question?

The realization of the presence of God within each of us as our sustaining strength is the stronghold in our consciousness that fortifies us against all adverse conditions, circumstances, and situations.

The Spirit of God within us is our very life. It sustains and maintains us; it protects and prospers us. This loving Presence uplifts us, frees us from care and worry, and brings the very idea of victory as being rooted in that sustaining strength which overcomes human weakness.

To have the strength and integrity of character that makes our lives seem effortless and free is to have the inward joy that no man and nothing can take away.

The Christ is the universal presence of God at the center of each and every one of us. Christ in you, your hope of glory, is God's gift to all of His children.

WHILE YOU REST, PRAY

January 28, 2018

Rev. Donna Gatewood

We talk often of how to pray and our Bible gives us these precise instructions: "When ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do; for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut the door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." Matthew 6:6-7

"When should we pray?" The Scriptures provide us the answer in I Thessalonians 5:17 which states "Pray without ceasing."

It is the "praying without ceasing" that changes the conditions, situations and circumstances in our lives from what they are to what our Father intended them to be. Our Father's desire for all of His children is all good. It does not include the ups and downs of the human condition; it does not include sorrow, anger, jealousy, lack or poor health. To receive the good that our Father has already given us we must have a relationship with Him. We must companion with Him in all our ways.

Life responds to the blessings of silent prayer, faith and communion with our Father. Believing in the Truth rather than the human condition is a great blessing. With such an awareness of Truth, we replace fear, jealousy, anger, lack and poor health with Love, Peace, and Joy.