

Monday January 1, 2018

Isaiah 43:18-19 (NIV) "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

The Prophet shares God's word to guide us into the New Year, by letting go of regrets, shoulds, perceptions of failure, and things that have kept us shackled and afraid. Instead we are invited to see what God is doing right now, something new and wondrous in our lives, a new way that is transforming the desolate into new life!

What is God stirring in your heart and imagination? Today in this very moment, will you fully embrace God's love for you and begin living the new life God desires for you?

May you hear, feel, and be transformed by God's Word in this moment to be a new creation in God's love!

Tuesday January 2, 2018

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

It is the presence of Jesus that makes all the difference in our lives and the life of the world. In Jesus we see all of life in a new way as we come to realize and truly believe that we are loved by God and our lives matter to God. When this really sinks into every part of our being, then the old is gone, and the new is here!

Are you ready to be truly alive in Jesus? Today will you be Christ's new creation?

May you fully embrace today the love of Jesus Christ and be his new creation!

Wednesday January 3, 2017

Matthew 2:1-2 (NRSV) In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."

It took a group of scholars from another culture to awaken the leadership of the Jewish people in Jerusalem to the fact that Jesus the Messiah had been born. God

often uses people on the edges of society to point to what God is doing to bring transforming love into our lives!

From whom did you learn about Jesus? Today will you open your heart to receive the light of Jesus from unexpected sources?

May you join those from the edges today in paying homage to Jesus, God's light in the world!

Thursday January 4, 2018

Matthew 2:9-10 (NIV) After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

The Magi, teach us to follow God's guidance, they followed the light of the star that led them to Jesus. God is ever creative and subtle about leading us to Jesus, meaning that we have to be looking to find the way. When we seek Jesus, the way is lighted for us to find him!

How has God given you beacons to find Jesus? Today will you trust in God's love to overcome the darkness and light the way for you to find Jesus in your heart?

May you experience today the Magi's joy in following the light to Jesus!

Friday January 5, 2018

John 1:14 (NIV) The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The Apostle John spoke powerfully of Jesus, God's one and only Son, being born and living among humanity, filled with God's glory, brimming over with grace and truth. Jesus came so that we could relate to God with a relationship of love and grace that resonates with truth. The truth that we are God's beloved, redeemed through the power of self giving love!

Have you seen the glory of the Son? Today will you accept the grace and truth that God desires a loving relationship with you?

May you experience today the glory, grace, and truth of God's love through Jesus Christ!

Saturday January 6, 2018 Epiphany

Matthew 2:11 (NIV) On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

This is the 12th day of Christmas, Epiphany, when the arrival of the Magi and presentation of gifts to the Christ Child is celebrated. First the Wise Ones bowed to Jesus and worshiped him as Emmanuel, God with us, then they gave him their greatest treasures. On this Epiphany we too are invited to worship Jesus and open the treasure house of our hearts to give the best of ourselves to him!

What are the best treasures in your heart? Today will you join the Magi in giving the best of your heart and life to loving Jesus and living in his way?

May you be as wise as the Magi as you worship Jesus today and make your life a gift of loving service to him!

Sunday January 7, 2018

Ephesians 3:11-12 (NIV) According to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

The Apostle Paul declared that God's purpose for sending Jesus was that through faith in Jesus humanity could come to God with freedom and confidence. This means that through faith in Jesus we believe that the sin that separated us from God has been removed restoring our original loving relationship with God!

How do you approach God? Today will you trust in Jesus' love and exercise your freedom to be in loving relationship with God?

May your faith in Jesus flood your spirit and life with his reconciling love today!

Monday January 8, 2018

1 Samuel 3:9 (NRSV) Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Eli, the head priest, was experienced in the ways of God and recognized that God was communicating with Samuel, a boy who did not yet know God, so he gave

Samuel direction for establishing a relationship with God. We all need people in our lives like Eli, Spiritual Directors, who can guide and walk with us in learning the ways of listening to and knowing God!

Who are the spiritual guides in your life? Today will you follow Eli's advice by being still and listening to God's voice?

May you find trustworthy spiritual guides to help you listen to God in your life!

Sunday January 21, 2018

Mark 1:14-15 (NIV) After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

Following Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River by John and his subsequent time of testing in wilderness Jesus went north into the Galilee region with a life changing message for all who would hear and respond. The message was that the kingdom of God was near, God was present, God desired a personal relationship that would transform the life of every believer. Friends, the kingdom of God is here, repent and believe the good news!

Do you hear Jesus proclaiming the good news? Today will you listen and be totally present with God and experience the kingdom of God?

May your life be changed today as you listen and believe in the Good News of Jesus Christ!



Saturday January 20, 2018

Mark 1:16-17 (NIV) As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."

As we journeyed along the side of the Sea of Galilee I imagined Jesus calling Simon and Andrew in from their boats and nets. Jesus saw the potential within each of these fishermen to become bearers of the gospel, 'the good news of God'. Jesus continues to see and call out the potential in each of us to journey with him and to fish for people because we are 'the good news of God!'

Do you hear Jesus' call to you in the midst of your labors? Today will you follow Simon and Andrew in responding to Jesus and transforming your life?

May you hear Jesus' voice today calling for you to journey with him and become 'the good news of God!'



Monday January 22, 2018

Proverbs 3:5-6 (AMP) Trust in and rely confidently on the Lord with all your heart and do not rely on your own insight or understanding. In all your ways know and acknowledge and recognize Him, and He will make your paths straight and smooth [removing obstacles that block your way].

The Wisdom Writer shares with us the essence of the Torah (Law) in these two verses: Trusting and relying on God with all our heart, and recognizing God's action and guidance in every part of our lives. When we trust and seek God with all of our heart, mind, and soul our lives are transformed and we discover that we are able to let go of anxieties, and obstacles to holy lives are removed!

Do you struggle with trusting and relying on God? Today will you seek and acknowledge God's loving action in your life?

May you seek and rely upon God's insight and understanding for your life today and every day!

Pastor Scott Tyler



Tuesday January 23, 2018

Psalm 52:8 (NIV) But I am like an olive tree flourishing in the house of God; I trust in God's unfailing love for ever and ever.

The photo is of the grove of olive trees that are thousands of years old next to the Cathedral of all Nations, better known as the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus prayed with his disciples before giving his life for us. I was told that Olive trees can live forever when they are lovingly cared for. What a wonderful image the Psalmist has given us for our flourishing in the care of God's unfailing love!

Are you flourishing in the house of God? Today will you become like an olive tree and trust in God's unfailing love for ever and ever?

May you become like an olive tree today and flourish forever in God's unfailing love!

Pastor Scott Tyler



Friends,
Unless cancelled by weather, I will be away for the next three days for continuing education and will resume devotions on Saturday January 27th.