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May 5, 2021



ABBAY ROAD CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

ARCC NEWS

For many years, since way back the 1980's when I was in Seminary at Pacific School of Religion and working a student job at the Graduate Theological Union Library (a combined library of the numerous Seminaries in the GTU), I have followed the Devotional writing of Sojourners magazine. These days I don't have to go to the library or bookstore to read them, I am now blessed to have the Sojourners Verse and Voice show up in my email box every day.

Each day I receive a scripture verse, a statement by a respected voice, and a prayer by an individual or from a prayer resource like the Book of Common Prayer curated by the folk at Sojourners; more often than not, the Daily Verse and Voice speaks to me deeply.

Here is the Sojourners Verse and Voice from Tuesday May 4, 2021.

Verse of the day

For the love of God is this, that we obey [God's] commandments. And [God's] commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. - 1 John 5:3-4

Voice of the day

I don't want to be an anti, against anybody.

I simply want to be the builder of a great affirmation: the affirmation of God, who loves us and who wants to save us. - Saint Óscar Romero

Prayer of the day

Faithful God, make our hearts bold with love for one another. Pour out your Spirit upon all people, that we may live your justice and sing in praise the new song of your marvelous victory. -

From the Revised Common Lectionary Prayers

The phrase from Archbishop, now Saint, Oscar Romero "I don't want to be an anti, against anybody." really jumped off the page at me. How many times a day are we bombarded by the spirit of "Anti"? On the news, on social media, on billboards as we drive to work or the store or back home again. There are statements of Anti-something every where we turn. And unfortunately it has begun to infect our society. We are becoming all about who or what we are against, rather than who and what we are for. It is even creeping into church life, and wouldn't you think that would be the last place we would succumb to the power or Anti?

The Verse of the day comes from 1st John 5:3-4, which will be read in church this Sunday as the Epistle reading from the Common Lectionary. This scripture reminds us that we show our love for God by obeying God's commandments, which are always based on love.

God's ways are not difficult or hard to bear, but they always overcome the anti-love that the world embraces. Our Faith in God's Ways of Love will always conquer the ways of the world. So we can encourage one another to keep on loving. We can show one another kindness and love so none of us lose faith in God's ways. The more love we show, the more we practice kindness, the fewer of us will give in to the seduction of the Anti-loving ways so popular in our world.

Believe me, I know how easy it is to slip into the ways of Anti-love. We all deal with the temptations because the mean, but funny, joke so often gets a big laugh; the sarcastic or snarky comment can seem so clever. Bullying gets us things we want, and a short or rude retort keeps us on schedule rather than wasting time talking to folk we barely know.

Control, efficiency, influence and getting our own way at any cost are like sirens that sing us sweetly to our doom. Because we are the people of The Way. The Way of Jesus, God's Way, which is always the way of love. And Jesus calls us to return to The Way of Love whenever we find ourselves wandering into the land of the Anti.

May The Lord make your hearts bold with love for one another. May loving kindness be your guide. May the love of Jesus fill your heart and soul til you can't keep it inside any longer, but simply have to share it.

On The Way with you,

Your Pastor E



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(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)**

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Saturday, June 12 8a-1p
Bring items the week of the sale:
Tuesday-Thursday June 8-10 -
Afternoon til 6p
Friday, June 11—all day

*Need volunteers to help set up &/or work sale
Call Peggy Bentlage if you need pick up!*

- Sign up sheets for May & June worship assistants are on the table in the narthex. Please find a place to put your name!

Worship Notes May 2

Attendance: 30

Offering: \$3890

St. Francis Foundation is partnering with the City of Cape Girardeau Police and Fire Departments to launch the lifesaving PulsePoint app in Cape. The free mobile app alerts citizens trained in hands-only cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) when someone in a nearby public place suffers cardiac arrest. Public safety communication operators send alerts through the app at the same time they dispatch first responders to the scene. The app also notifies users of the closest available automated external defibrillator (AED).



The free PulsePoint mobile app empowers members of the public to provide life-saving assistance to victims of sudden cardiac arrest until medical aid arrives.

ARCC has partnered with St. Francis in the PulsePoint community program. On **Tuesday, May 11, at 6:30pm**, Monica Pfau, RN, grant project director at St. Francis, will give a brief presentation to familiarize us with PulsePoint & how we can be involved.

Please mark your calendars and come to learn about this important program.

The Intent for the May 9

Meditation/Centering Prayer group is

Silence

Listen to Silence. It has so much to say. ~Rumi

Serving on May 9

At the Table: Jim Main (c), Judy Cureton (o)
Scripture Reader: Judy Cureton
Communion Preparation: Kilja Israel
Greeters/Ushers: J. Ronald & Edna Ruth Fischer
Worship Captain: Lavetta Bratton



John & Deborah Browne, Luther Hunt, Mark Faith, Bill Cox, Joe Robb Blattner, Susan Spooler, Carol Gleason, Liz Meyer, Debbie Bradley, Dawn Knoderer, Kim Farrar Frank, George & Helen Amick, Pat Murray & Wally Allstun, Ed Sheridan & Nita Brackin, Martha D., Mary Hendrix, Wayne Piker, Kim Wells Schott, frontline workers, Felicia Fox, Henry S., Edna Ohmart, David H., Frank & Sue Batchelor, Troy & Wilma Dooley, Dorothy R., Calvin Wells, Linda Dillman, Ed Tilley, Alan Myers, Carla Jordan, Hugh White, Jeneva Crampton, Anne & Jack McDonough, Dave Amelotti, Danny Kemp, relatives & friends serving in the military, all who are hurting, lonely, and afraid.

Do you have someone to add to our prayer list? Please inform the church office or fill out a form found in the narthex.