

MOVING SPIRIT

November, 2001

Eskaton Village Community Church

Pastor's Parcel

There is no greater hope for humanity than that announced by an angelic host on the night of Christ's nativity: "*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!*" That one exclamation expresses full participation by Triune Divinity in the incarnational advent of the Son of God.

First, the *glory* of God the Father's amazing grace was revealed by His own involvement in our rescue from sin and sin's effects. This *highest* love flowing from God's heart is the true glory that draws our praise. It draws us to seek His face, the face of a loving Father.

Second, physical creation awaits the *peace* and order that our ancestor Adam was created in God's image to minister on *earth*. When Adam failed, God's Son submitted to the Father's loving plan to re-establish human rule over creation. Freedom had to be won for a race bound in sin, and death had to be conquered. Christ's death and resurrection achieved both of these strategies. But now the physical-spiritual Being who will lead in governing creation is the incarnate God-Man, a Divine-Human *Prince of Peace!*

Third, already Christ's divine reign



has begun through the present work of the Holy Spirit. The victory of His Cross becomes real individually in Christians and corporately effective in the Church by the power of God the Spirit. Those who yield to His holy fruit in their lives will manifest God's *goodwill toward men* in true words and loving deeds.

This is the *Good News* that brings us hope in the midst of a world that doesn't yet know the peace God wants for it. As we celebrate Advent season, let's be filled with that peace and the love that's behind it! -- **Pastor David**

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Parish Proclamations

The Dessert Theatre! Ask those who have been. It's a delightful evening of music, drama, and homemade dessert at Arcade Wesleyan Church. EVCC has 34 seats reserved for Thursday night Dec.

13th. Tickets are \$7.00. Call soon to the church office to reserve one (487-5123). They usually go quickly. Transportation will be provided. We will leave from the lobby at 5:30 PM. The drama title this year: "*Don't Kick the Turkeys!*"

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Personal Pulpit

ANYWAY

People are unreasonable, illogical and self-centered,

LOVE THEM ANYWAY

If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives,

DO GOOD ANYWAY

If you are successful, you will win false and true enemies,

SUCCEED ANYWAY

The good you do will be forgotten tomorrow,

DO GOOD ANYWAY

Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable,

BE HONEST AND FRANK ANYWAY

What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight,

BUILD ANYWAY

People really need help, but may attack if you help them,

HELP PEOPLE ANYWAY

Give the world the best you have and you'll get kicked in the teeth,

GIVE THE WORLD THE BEST YOU'VE GOT ANYWAY

-- Mother Teresa

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Make the Most of Each Moment

God Gives You

You can't know how much longer you have to live or what God has in store for you during your remaining time on earth, but you can make the most of each moment as you live it. Every choice you make throughout each day matters. Here are some ways to use your time to fulfill God's purposes in your life:

* Realize that God loves you and cares about how you spend your life.

* Depend on God's grace to help you make positive choices.

* Strive to be faithful when making little choices as well as big ones, since little choices accumulate to shape the direction of your life.

* Live each day with the knowledge that there is no security in this world, but there is security in Christ. Invest yourself in what God values for a return that will last.

* Expect to experience situations that will test your faith. If you respond to them in obedience, your faith will grow stronger. If you respond by compromising your faith, you will slide farther and farther away from God. Find meaning and acceptance in the eternal world rather than in this temporary one.

* Realize that God sometimes will bring blessings your way, but also will ask you to give up some things that may be important to you. Be willing to say yes when He asks you to do so.

* If God is calling you to do something, don't let fear or attacks from others hold

you back. Go for it!...

* Don't waste your precious resources of time, energy and attention by investing them in trivial matters. Set your priorities in life to reflect things that God considers important.

* Keep disappointments in perspective. Realize that they don't mean the end of your world.

* Pursue a mission rather than an ambition. Follow what God wants you to do, not just what you want to do (sometimes, the two can align).

* Seek God's will when making decisions, by reading the Bible, developing a heart that's close to God, receiving wise counsel, looking for God's providence, applying sound judgment and accepting divine intervention. Remember that peace and fulfillment will come not through what you do but through who you are and who you love.

* Find a coach to help you as you live out your faith - perhaps a ... friend or pastor.

* Rather than focusing on yourself, focus on how you can serve others as God would like you to do. Develop a servant's heart by keeping a proper perspective on events in your life, focusing your security on God and embracing humility.

* Find a way to make the seemingly impossible become possible, with God's help. Use your creativity and determination to build character and perseverance that will last long after a

you've overcome a particular challenge.

* Realize that even if others consider your life to be merely ordinary, Christ sees you as an extraordinary person.

* Rely on God's power to help you surpass cruelty in this world. Know that God will never allow you to experience more than you can bear, and will always be present with you, ready to provide help you need.

* Don't just wait for opportunities to witness to others about your faith. Create such opportunities whenever you can. Always consider what you're currently doing to fulfill God's destiny.

* Don't just mark time by "walking" through life. Embrace the potential in each moment so you can run the race that God has set before you.

--Whitney Von Lake

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Pithy Pieces

Where was God?

You say you will never forget where you were when you heard the news, Sept. 11, 2001. Neither will I.

I was on the 110th floor in a smoke filled room with a man who called his wife to say "Good-Bye." I held his fingers steady as he dialed. I gave him the peace to say, "Honey, I am not going to make it, but it is OK...I am ready to go." I was with his wife when he called as she fed breakfast to their children. I held her up as she tried to understand his words and as she realized he wasn't

coming home that night.

I was in the stairwell of the 23rd floor when a woman cried out to me for help. "I have been knocking on the door of your heart for 50 years!" I said. "Of course I will show you the way home--only believe on Me now."

I was at the base of the building with the Priest ministering to the injured and devastated souls. I took him home to tend to his Flock in Heaven. He heard my voice and answered.

I was on all four of those planes, in every seat, with every prayer. I was with the crew as they were overtaken. I was in the very hearts of the believers there. Comforting and assuring them that their Faith has saved them.

I was in Texas, Kansas, London. I was standing next to you when you heard the terrible news. Did you sense Me?

I want you to know that I saw every face. I knew every name, though they did NOT all know Me. Some met me for the first time on the 100th floor. Some sought me out in their last breath. Some couldn't hear me calling to them through the smoke and flames, "Come to Me...this way...take my hand." Some chose, for the final time, to ignore Me. But, I was there.

I did not place you in the Tower that day--you may not know why, But I DO. However, if you were there in that explosive moment in time, would you have reached for Me? September 11, 2001 was not the end of the journey for

you. But someday your journey will end. And I will be there for you as well. Seek Me now while I may be found. Then, at any moment, you know you are "ready to go." I will be in the stairwell of your final moments. -- God

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Praise's Portion

When I fall, He lifts me up!
When I fail, He forgives
When I am weak, He is strong!
When I am lost, He is the way!
When I am afraid, He is my courage!
When I stumble, He steadies me!
When I am hurt, He heals me!
When I am broken, He mends me!
When I am blind, He leads me!
When I am hungry, He feeds me!
When I face trials, He is with me!
When I face persecution, He shields me!
When I face problems, He comforts me!
When I face loss, He provides for me!
When I face death, He carries me Home!

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Prayer's Priority

Prayer is the movement of trust, of gratitude, of adoration, or of sorrow, that places us before God, seeing both Him and ourselves in the light of His infinite truth, and moves us to ask Him for the mercy, the spiritual strength, the material help, that we all need. The man whose prayer is so pure that he never asks God for anything does not know who God is, and does not know who he

is himself: for he does not know his own need of God. All true prayer somehow confesses our absolute dependence on the Lord of life and death. It is, therefore, a deep and vital contact with Him whom we know not only as Lord but as Father. It is when we pray truly that we really are. Our being is brought to a high perfection by this. --Thomas Merton, *No Man Is an Island*

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Poetry's Place

Come Follow Me

I hear the trickling brook.
I hear the children play.
I hear a mother's heart.
I hear the pain of sorrow.
I hear a new beginning.
I hear a new tomorrow.
I am here to follow Jesus.
I hear His gentle voice.
I hear His gentle footsteps.
I hear His gentle calling,
"Come follow Me."
-- Ingrid Eddington

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Pearls of Prudence

Real friends are those who, when you feel you've made a fool of yourself, don't feel you've done a permanent job.

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Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% of how you respond to it.
Did it ever occur to you that nothing

occurs to God?

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Life is like an onion; you peel off one layer at a time and sometimes you weep.

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Learn from the mistakes of others. You can't live long enough to make them all yourself.

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There are two things I have learned:
There is a God. And I'm not Him.

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Following the path of least resistance is what makes rivers and men crooked.

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Your worst days are never so bad that you are beyond the reach of God's grace. And your best days are never so good that you're beyond the need of God's grace.

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Pleasurable Pastime

One balding preacher told about his little granddaughter who climbed up on the back of the stuffed chair he was sitting in and looked down in surprise, exclaiming: "Granddad! Your head is growing up through your hair!"

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Past Pathways

Words from Thomas Aquinas (1274), priest, teacher of the faith

The cross provides an example for every virtue. Was it necessary for the Son of God to suffer for us? It was very necessary, and on two counts: First as a remedy for our sins, and secondly as a model for us in our behavior.

In the passion of Christ we find a remedy for all the evils which come upon us on account of our sins.

But the passion is not less useful to us as an example. Indeed the passion of Christ is sufficient in itself to instruct us completely in our whole life. For if anyone wants to live a perfect life, he has only to despise the things that Christ despised on the cross, and to desire what Christ desired. The cross provides an example of every virtue.

If you are looking for an example of charity, 'Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.' This was what Christ did on the cross. If he gave up his life for us, it ought not to be a burden for us to put up with every evil, whatever it be, for his sake.

If you are looking for patience, you will find it in its highest form on the cross. The greatness of patience is measured by two things, either when someone puts up patiently with grievous things, or when he suffers things which he could have evaded but did not. Christ suffered greatly and with patience on the cross: when he suffered, he did not threaten; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, he opened not his mouth.' That is how great was the patience of Christ

on the cross: 'Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him, endured the cross, despising the shame.'

If you are looking for an example of humility, look at the cross. There, God willed to be judged by Pontius Pilate and to die.

If you are looking for an example of obedience, follow him who was obedient to the Father, even unto death. 'For as by one man's disobedience', (this refers to Adam), many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

If you are looking for a model of contempt for earthly things, follow him who is the 'King of kings, and Lord of lords', 'in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge'. He was naked on the cross, derided and spat upon, struck and crowned with thorns, and finally given vinegar to drink. Do not, then, be attached to fine clothes and riches, for 'they divided my garments among them'. Do not seek for honors, for he knew mockery and beating. Do not seek honorable rank, because 'they plaited a crown of thorns and placed it on my head'. Do not seek after fine foods, because 'for my thirst, they gave me vinegar to drink'.