

# THE MESSENGER

MAY 2018

THE MISSION OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI ANGLICAN CHURCH IS TO PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION IN JESUS CHRIST THROUGH SERIOUS DISCIPLESHIP, SACRED WORSHIP AND SELFLESS SERVICE

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## THE CALLS OF PENTECOST

The Feast of Pentecost celebrates the birthday of the Church. It recalls how, on that day, the Holy Spirit descends on the community of the disciples of Jesus gathered in the Upper Room *in prayer*. The Holy Spirit, like fire, enflamed their hearts and like a strong wind, drove them into the streets to begin the mission of the Church in the world. Thus, the Church was born.

Birthdays are a good time to reflect, as a Church family, on where we have been, where we are, and where we are going. My shorthand answer is this: We have been St. John Episcopal Church and then St. John Anglican Church; we are now St. Francis of Assisi Anglican Church pitching our tent at 5401 North Pershing Ave, Suite 10, Stockton, CA. --- Where we are going ..... is the question that burns in our minds and in our hearts.

On this birthday of the Church, I like us to think about this question. Today, there is a growing realization that, looking at our membership's demographics, we have reached the point where "we need to flourish or we perish." Over the years, our membership has shrunk through natural attrition. In my many years with you, there are very few among you here whose grandparent, parent, spouse, sibling, brother or sister or family member that I had not have the pastoral privilege of celebrating a memorial or a funeral.

Admittedly, we have not replaced those we lost from within our ranks and from newcomers. The majority of us have children and grandchildren who have moved away from home and from church. We have newcomers and 'returnees' but their numbers are not enough to re-fill the empty seats.

Where do we look for hope and courage to go on? The feast of Pentecost gives us three valuable calls among others to serve as reasons for hope and courage.

First call: **STAY TOGETHER**. Remember that before his ascension, Jesus commanded his disciples not to depart from Jerusalem, but to **STAY TOGETHER** to wait for the promise of the Father. (cf. Acts 1:4-5). Here Jesus laid this condition on them to *stay together* in order to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. If we *stay together*, the Holy Spirit will be with us – our hope and our strength

Second call: **PRAYER**. Remember that the disciples gathered in prayer with Mary in the Upper Room, awaiting the promised event. (cf. Acts 1:14). Prayer was the principal act of the Church community that was being born. Prayer was the power that kept the Church together. Prayer nurtured her and gave her growth. If we pray personal and pray together as a community, the Holy Spirit will be in our midst.

Third call: **MISSION**. Pentecost is the gift of the Holy Spirit of our Lord Jesus to his disciples and to us. For Jesus says: "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to remain with you forever" (*Jn 14:16*). But Jesus meant this gift to be shared with others. It is the same gift of the Holy Spirit that gives us the courage to do mission: to take to the streets of the world in order to bring the Good News of Salvation.

On the Feast of Pentecost, let us ask the Father through Jesus Christ his Son to send the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts so that we will heed his calls

TO STAY TOGETHER,  
TO PRAY,  
TO DO MISSION.

Fr. Woodrow Gubuan

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Shalom,

First of all I would like to wish all the mothers an early happy Mother's Day! May that day be filled with joy and love. I would like to say that I missed worshipping with you all and also missed each of you. It is good to be back home from Nebraska where we had major upgrades done on the plane I work on. Our test flight went very well, one of the first to go without a hitch, so good that we flew home that evening on Friday April 13<sup>th</sup>.

We had been praying for a good event and the Lord delivered one for us. One of my patron saints is that of St. Joseph of Cupertino. He is known as the flying friar and lived from 1603-1663. It is said that he would levitate during mass or during the divine office. He is known as the patron Saint of Aviation, astronauts, mentally handicapped, as well as test takers and poor students. I knew he was the patron saint of aviation but not for test takers and poor students, now I have 2 things connected with him, aviation and poor student. God works in mysterious ways, lol.

After being drawn to religious life in 1620, he applied to Franciscan friars, but was rejected due to his lack of education. He then applied to the Capuchin friars where he was accepted, but later dismissed due to his ecstasies with levitations. Later he joined the Conventual friars near Cupertino, where he would be ordained a priest on March 28, 1628.

Even being a poorly gifted public speaker, St. Joseph of Cupertino did the will of God. He allowed God to be shone through him. Once we learn of the incapacity of St. Joseph of Cupertino and his humility in accepting God's will, his name remains in our memories. He is an example of how we should, no matter what our education or what our ability is, humbly accept the will of God. If we humbly accept the will of God, it becomes a joy to serve our Lord.

Too often today we get caught up in material things, we strive to keep up not only with the Jones, but the Smiths as well. We focus so much on our possessions, that it clouds our humility. St. Joseph of Cupertino can serve as a contrast to today's world, where pride in things keep us from the humility of serving our Lord and Savior,

where our joy truly lies. My prayer for us all, is that we at times when needed, think of St. Joseph of Cupertino and remember where our joy truly is, it is in humbly serving God our Creator.

May the Peace of the Lord be always with You!

Deacon Jeff Stugelmeyer



Ted Yumoto as a faithful lector on Sunday morning. Thank you for all your prayers as he begins a new chemo treatment.



Come to Movie Night at St Francis Church on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the Month (May 25<sup>th</sup>) at 7:30pm.

### The Messenger

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'19 Mike Combs, Mike Finney  
'20 Mark Kemalyan, Agnes Olmsted

# Sacred Worship

HEALING SERVICE



St Francis Church offers a healing service on the First Friday of every month at 12noon. May 4<sup>th</sup> will be the service in May.

Holy Communion on the First Saturday of each month at 9:30am

An opportunity to gather and praise God before you "Go and Make Disciples" in the different food ministries St Francis offers in our community.



Jesus was referring to the worshipers of Baal who would plead to their (dead!) god from morning until night, who wouldn't answer them, of course. We say the Lord's Prayer every Sunday, at every Taizé service, and hopefully every day at home more than once. That is a repetitive prayer, using the same words every time. It's the prayer Jesus taught us to use, saying, "When you pray,...." not "if you pray." He expects us to repeat these very same words, every time. Praying the rosary is using repetition as a tool for meditation and drawing closer to God.

Psalm 136, a song of thanksgiving to God, repeats the phrase "for His lovingkindness is everlasting" 26 times. Some might even say that's just as repetitive as many modern praise songs. Is that necessarily a bad thing? I don't think so---some things are worth repeating. There aren't enough words with which to praise our awesome God! After all, Psalm 136 and many other songs written since King David's time seek to express the inexpressible. Only by allowing ourselves to meditate on the wonderful truths of God can we begin to grasp them in our innermost being. Then, our hearts can't help but sing the praises of God.

The Taizé website explains it like this: "Singing is one of the most essential elements of worship. Short songs, repeated again and again, give it a meditative character. Using just a few words they express a basic reality of faith, quickly grasped by the mind. As the words are sung over many times, this reality gradually penetrates the whole being. Meditative singing thus becomes a way of listening to God. It allows everyone to take part in a time of prayer together and to remain together in attentive waiting on God." ([taize.fr](http://taize.fr))

Repetitive prayer when worshiping God, used as a means to draw us into God's presence, is not going against Jesus' saying not to pray like the heathens do. Our words when spoken or sung in praise, adoration, and supplication to God are neither senseless repetitions nor in vain. Unlike Baal, our God is the living God who hears our prayers no matter which words we use: "For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." (Romans 8:26, NASB)

When we sing or pray a contemplative phrase or Scripture verse over and over, we are better able to focus solely on God and open ourselves to the presence of the Holy Spirit in an intimate way. Instead of reading ahead to the next verse in the hymnal, we can let the meaning of the words sink in, and soon they become our soul's prayer to God and a way for Him to speak to us. At some point your heart and mind are so open to God that He can make His very presence felt in a transcendent, holy moment.

*Come pray with us on Wednesday, May 16th at 7:00 p.m. Find silence, solace, and a song in your heart as we pray and worship the Lord together.*



Childcare Available

Child Care is Available each Sunday from 9am. Please see an Usher for location.

Sundays  
9:30am St Francis of Assisi

1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the Month  
12noon Healing Service

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the Month  
9:30am Holy Eucharist



He who sings prays twice

## Not in Vain: Contemplative Repetition in Taizé Worship

By Gigi Kemalyan

Candlelight, sacred stillness, and gentle melodies floating in the air---a sweet hour of prayer. We invite you to come sing, pray, and reflect on the beauty of the Lord at our next Taizé prayer service on Wednesday, May 16th at 7:00 p.m. It's an hour of contemplation and an opportunity to be with the Lord through meditative music and sacred silence.

A key characteristic of Taizé worship is the repetitive nature of the songs. Those who find fault with the Taizé style do so based on one Scripture verse alone: Matthew 6:7, where Jesus warns His disciples not to repeat vain prayers like the heathens do. But that's not the whole story. Let's not take Scripture out of context but look at the circumstances of Jesus' admonition.

## Serious Discipleship

### Arts & Crafts

#### Mini-Retreat for Adults #3

Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>

9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Artists and crafters are invited to our third monthly Arts & Crafts Mini-Retreat for Adults. It's a wonderful time of creativity and fellowship and being unhurried for a few hours. Come join us on May 19<sup>th</sup> and discover for yourself how inspiring it is to create in community. Bring a friend!

- For adult painters and crafters who want to work on their chosen project in community.
- Quiet arts and crafts (painting, drawing, coloring, collage, knitting, crocheting, beading, etc.); also: reading, writing, or journaling in designated quiet rooms.
- Pre-teens and teens welcome if accompanied by an adult, as long as they are working on a creative project.
- No childcare provided. We ask that younger children please stay at home.
- No craft materials or project suggestions offered.
- Limited amount of art supplies available (coloring books/ pages, markers, Origami paper, etc.).
- No food served. Hot water for tea and a Keurig coffee maker available. Bring your own coffee pods and tea bags.
- No registration required. Drop-ins welcome.



#### Do You Play Bridge?

Marvin Lykins and Valerie Nolan are looking for bridge partners. If we can find a couple more players, we will set up a bridge table in the fellowship hall during our next Arts & Crafts Mini-Retreat on Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup> between 9:00-11:30 a.m. If you're interested, please let the church office know!

The ACTS class is still in progress at 8:30am on Sundays. It is not too late to join. See Deacon Jeff or Cyndi Telander for more info.

#### Women's Bible Study

The last session of the current women's Bible Study will be on May 16<sup>th</sup>. We will begin a new study on August 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:45am

Our Diocese of San Joaquin Website:

<http://www.dioceseofsanjoaquin.net/>

Diocesan Newsletter:

<http://www.dioceseofsanjoaquin.net/san-joaquin-anglican.html>

#### Daily opportunities to read/hear the Word:



<http://legereme.com/office>

<http://www.missionstclare.com/english/>

<https://first5.org/>

# Selfless Service



Daughters: May 12<sup>th</sup> @10am  
 Choir: Upcoming Rehearsals: May 13<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>  
 Coffee Hour Hosts: See Cat Rhodes  
 Altar Guild: May 15<sup>th</sup> @ 10am  
 Taizé: May 16<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm  
 Arts & Crafts Retreat: May 19<sup>th</sup> ~ 9-11:30am  
 Bishop's Committee Meeting: May 27<sup>th</sup>

May

4<sup>th</sup> Mary - Terry Beth  
 15<sup>th</sup> Bella - Combs Family  
 21<sup>st</sup> Don - Carol Sherwood

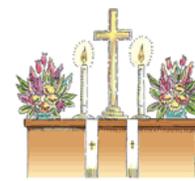
**Other Ministry Opportunities**

Acolyte  
 Lector  
 Prayer Team  
 Collection Counter  
 Hospitality  
 Usher  
 Flowers  
 Homebound Ministry  
 Senior Ministry  
 Serving on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sat of the Month

**Spring clean your closet!**

Will you please search your closet for women's warm weather items for the homeless? The first Saturday in May, St. Francis will be distributing toiletries and clothing to the homeless women of Stockton. We need women's light weight sweaters, jackets, shirts, shorts, pants, dresses and skirts. We also need gently used undergarments and sleepwear. Children's clothing is also needed. Please bring your donations to church and give them to Cat Vaughn. Thank you!

Don't forget to sign the cards on the back table for our homebound and sick



**Hospitality is Thankful**



Thank you for your generous contributions to the St. Francis coffee hour. Donations in the form of kitchen

supplies, coffee hour treats, as well as monetary gifts to the Hospitality basket are greatly appreciated.

Because of you, our tradition of Sunday fellowship is abundant. Special thanks to Rosemary, Isabel and Kristian for their gifts of time and talent.

**Easter and April Altar Flower Donations**

Carolyn Turpin in memory of Bob and Virginia Blewett and Joe Lawrence

Dolores Aulwurm in memory of Art Aulwurm

Helen Ripken in thanksgiving for James & Kate

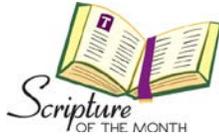
Steve and Agnes Olmsted in thanksgiving for their children & grandchildren

Carol Sherwood • David and Donna Lind

Liz Haines • Lorraine Hitchcock

Lisa and Ted Yumoto in thanksgiving for Lauren's Birthday

Bill and Jessica Aaron in celebration of their Wedding Anniversary



May 6<sup>th</sup>

Acts 11:19-30  
 Psalm 33  
 1 John 4:7-21  
 John 15:9-17

May 13<sup>th</sup>

Acts 1:15-26  
 Psalm 47  
 1 John 5:6-15  
 John 17:11b-19

May 20<sup>th</sup>

Acts 2:1-11  
 Psalm 104:25-37  
 1 Corinthians 12:4-13  
 John 20:19-23

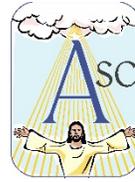
May 27<sup>th</sup>

Exodus 3:1-6  
 Psalm 93  
 Romans 8:12-17  
 John 3:1-16



Helen Ripken will be taking photos of everyone before and after church in the courtyard on May 6, 13 & 20 for our 2018 Pictoral Directory.

Bring your family for this great photo opportunity!!



Ascension Day

Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup>  
 at 12noon

**Pentecost Sunday - May 20<sup>th</sup>**



May

- 1<sup>st</sup> Mr & Mrs David Lind  
 Mr & Mrs Bill Aaron
- 9<sup>th</sup> Mr & Mrs Warren Osgood
- 20<sup>th</sup> Mr & Mrs Jim Holman
- 21<sup>st</sup> Fr & Mrs Woodrow Gubuan
- 30<sup>th</sup> Mr & Mrs Augustine Nwaogu



May

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Jerry Towne  
 Isabelle Ceballos
- 4<sup>th</sup> Barbara Foy
- 9<sup>th</sup> Vincent Dato
- 13<sup>th</sup> Becky Clover
- 14<sup>th</sup> Jessica Aaron
- 19<sup>th</sup> Missy Kenst
- 21<sup>st</sup> Terry Beth  
 Donna May  
 Dina Osgood  
 Gary Crowder
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Christina Guardado
- 24<sup>th</sup> Isabel Johnson
- 26<sup>th</sup> Erlinda Agarao
- 31<sup>st</sup> Steve Olmsted

May 2018						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 Healing Mass 12noon	5 Holy Eucharist 9:30am
6 Easter VI 9:30 Holy Eucharist Pictures!	7	8	9	10 Ascension Day Service @ 12noon	11	12 Daughters 10am
13 Sunday After Ascension Mother's Day 9:30 Holy Eucharist Pictures!	14	15 Altar Guild Meeting 10am	16 Taizé 7pm	17	18	19 Arts & Crafts 9 - 11:30
20 Pentecost 9:30 Holy Eucharist Wear Red ! Pictures!	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Trinity Sunday 9:30 Holy Eucharist BC Meeting	28	29	30	31		

## Reflections on "I AM"

By Agnes Olmsted

### *I am the Door of the Sheep and the Good Shepherd*

In John 10: verses 9 and 11, Jesus said to them, "I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture... I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep."

Sheep were abundant and very valuable in the Holy Land. Though many of those listening to Jesus may no longer have been shepherds, the ways of sheep and shepherds was very familiar to them. In John 10, Jesus shared a comforting picture contrasting Himself, our Shepherd, first to a thief, then a hired hand, and also to a stranger.

A sheepfold is a safe and secure walled enclosure where sheep and lambs are protected when they are not in the pasture. If it was an outside walled pen, it often had thorny bushes or spikes on top to keep out vandals and predators. A thief may try to steal one of these valuable animals, and a wild animal may try to kill one, but it wouldn't be easy. There was only one narrow entry. The shepherd would guard the entrance or sleep across the opening at night.



The true shepherd would be prepared to give his life to protect the vulnerable asset. If he paid a keeper to watch the sheep and trouble came, he would probably flee because the sheep do not belong to him. Our Shepherd has knowingly and willingly died to save us and keeps us in His tender care. Our Good Shepherd, Jesus, is the Door and the only way in. This Door is not made of wood or metal, but God Himself.

The Good Shepherd has an intimate knowledge of his sheep. He calls them by name and they hear His voice. He goes before them when they leave the safety of the fold and they follow Him. They will not follow a stranger because the sheep don't recognize his voice. He cares for the wellbeing of all His lambs. He fetches back any sheep that stray. Do you recognize Jesus' voice? Are you safely resting in the Good Shepherd's care? Is there any thief or wolf, maybe in sheep's clothing, trying to steal your life?

"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of My Father's hand." There is no greater security than this.

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*Mother's Day*

*Sunday, May 13<sup>th</sup>*

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*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

[www.stocktonanglican.org](http://www.stocktonanglican.org)

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