

FEBRUARY 28, 2010

St. Timothy's



Welcome!

For Our Guests Today

Welcome to St. Timothy's. We are glad that you are here. You are welcome to use the "connection card" at the end of this bulletin to learn more about our community, ask questions, or make comments. Please place the card in the offering plate, or hand it to one of the clergy at the door as you leave today.

What Sustains

Dear St. Timothy's Family and Friends,

The season of Lent is one where we learn how our faith prepares us to face times of wilderness. We follow Jesus through temptations and trials on the road to Jerusalem, and are alongside him in his agony and suffering. In Lent, through self-examination and penitence, we learn what can truly sustain us through the trials of life. Consider "Desert Prayer," a poem by Jan Richardson:

Desert Prayer

*I am not asking you
to take this wilderness from me,
to remove this place of starkness
where I come to know
the wildness within me,
where I learn to call the names
of the ravenous beasts
that pace inside me,
to finger the brambles
that snake through my veins,
to taste the thirst
that tugs at my tongue.
But send me
tough angels,
sweet wine,
strong bread:
just enough.*



What sustains you in the face of wilderness times? Personally speaking, when at my best, I recognize God as the one who sustains me, beyond the support and care I gain from myself, my family, friends, church, and others with whom my life is connected. In Jesus Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit, God has given us "just enough." And the challenge of Lent, I think, is to recognize this and live it.

Remarkable self-examination is happening this Lent. Today at 11:45 we'll have our luncheon and receive the report from Dale Sollom-Brotherton of New Beginnings Consulting. Our self-examination as a whole church will be reported on, and recommendations will be made. Personally speaking, I wonder what will we hear, learn, and take away as recommendations. The report will be remarkably accurate: 80% of active members of the church have taken time to share their perspective and experience of St. Timothy's. This is unprecedented collaboration and reflects the importance of this church in our lives. I hope you will join me and the Vestry to learn what we see together and what might come next. (Food and childcare are provided.) My prayers for Lent and the opportunities it provides for every one of us.

Love,

Nathan

Ways to Get Connected

Adults

Ministry Teams are how we care for others and one another while growing in faith. Find a team where you can make a difference in our community! Email equip@sttims.org.

Covenant Groups are small groups meeting in parishioners' homes, helping us know the presence of Christ in one another. To find the covenant group right for you, email Anne Wilde at anne@sttims.org.

Wednesday Night Dinner is a great way to meet people over a nice meal. Dinners begin every Wednesday evening (except during the Christmas season) at 6:00 p.m. in the parish hall. "Kid Food" and a vegetarian option are always available. The cost is \$8.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children, and a \$30.00 maximum per family (including parents and children under 18). Consider yourself personally invited by Nathan, our pastor, who keeps a chair open at his table.

Children

Godly Play nurtures children's relationship with God in Christ through experiencing the stories of Scripture. Classes are provided for children 3 years and above and begin immediately following the 9:00 a.m. service. Everything that happens in a *Godly Play* classroom – the classroom set-up, the carefully chosen and placed materials and the management of the community of children – serves the child's relationship with God. Wyn Schuh (at wynsttims@boardsailor.com) is the coach of the Godly Play ministry team, and would love to help you learn more about how we can help with your child's faith and religious education.

Kids Music and Movement is a joyful half-hour of music and rhythm play on Wednesday evenings at 5:15 in the church building. Children of all ages sing simple (and sometimes silly) songs, play drums and other instruments, and move their bodies. "Kid's Music" wraps up just in time for Wednesday night dinner. The class is free and registration is not necessary. Our Music Director, Peter Sammel, (at peter@sttims.org) can provide you with more details.

St. Timothy's Preschool has been serving children and families in the Mountain View, Los Altos and Sunnyvale communities since 1961. Our school offers a play-based program that includes academic and social readiness in preparation for kindergarten. Within a peaceful, nurturing, co-operative environment, children experience art, literature, music, math and reading readiness, cooking, science and creative drama. For more information, contact Helen Wooldridge, Preschool Director at (650) 967-4724.

Youth

Youth Group is for youth in 6th-12th grade. Youth meet from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. on Wednesday nights and from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. on Sundays, to grow in love together and set an example in life by doing a project for the community. These projects were generated by youth matching the community's needs with their own gifts. For more information contact Youth Director, Nancy Livak, at nancy@sttims.org.

Breakfast Club happens every Sunday from 9:45 to 10:25 a.m., after the 9:00 a.m. service and before the 10:30 a.m. service. Youth, grades 6-12, meet to explore the meaning of the gospel together. For more information contact the coach of the Breakfast Club Ministry Team, John Heltzel (at jheltzel@gmail.com).

Serving Today

Danelle Hanson Candace Hanson	Tellers
Jennifer Ezell	Floral Designer
7:45 a.m.	
Lisa Kuynsz Chuck Utley Dick Yarp Jack Bindon Dick Yarp Gwen Bindon Darlene Frick Scott Wineman	Altar Guild Newcomer Welcome Greeters/Ushers Lector Eucharistic Minister Healing Prayer Sound
9:00 a.m.	
Patti Rotondo Miller Family Miller Family Sebastian Casellas Lucas Casellas Audrey Wolfe Chris Mintz Wyn Schuh Beto Casellas Larry Mendoza Donna Yobs Scott Boding Andrew Yobs TBA	Altar Guild Newcomer Welcome Greeters/Ushers Lectors Prayer Acolyte Eucharistic Minister Healing Prayer Sound Projector Floor Director
10:30 a.m.	
Caroline Aoki Julia Ezell Lambert Family Lambert Family Tom Stolarik Mark Witzke Ana Ezell Jen Ezell Peggy Aoki Kandace Klemba Mark Witzke Ken Livak	Altar Guild Newcomer Welcome Greeters/Ushers Lectors Acolyte Eucharistic Ministers Healing Prayer Sound Projector

Flower Dedications

Celebrate a birthday, anniversary, a memory of someone, or simply give thanks for your many blessings. You are invited by the Altar Guild to dedicate an arrangement of flowers by signing up on the Flower Chart on the back of the front door of the church.

The suggested donation is \$35, and it is okay to have more than one dedication per week if you wish.

Prayer List

If you have a prayer request, call the church office or email prayer@sttims.org.

Please Pray For: Virginia and Carlos Bean; the Cummings Family; Frank Davis, Jr.; Kate Drew; Terry Field; Betty Sue Frost; Liz Gogolewski; Patricia Greene; Ron Holt; Mateo Kohler; Elizabeth Luce; Bob Parsons; Ed Sammel; Carol Saslow; the Schroeder family; Slater and her family; Alan and Tracy Stevenson; the Tapella Family; the Diocese of El Camino Real and Bishop Mary Gray-Reeves; our Companion Dioceses in Western Tanganyika and Gloucester, England; Stephen Ministers and their care receivers.

Service Notes

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

March 7, 2010

Lent Three

EXODUS 3:1-15

PSALM 63:1-8

1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-13

LUKE 13:9-12

THIS WEEK'S HYMN

February 21, 2010

Lent Two

HYMN #401 THE GOD OF
ABRAHAM PRAISE
(VERSES 1-3)

Collect of the Day

Second Sunday in Lent

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of you Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*



Today's Readings

Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 15:1-18

1 After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." 2 But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" 3 And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." 4 But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." 5 He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." 6 And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness. 7 Then he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." 8 But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" 9 He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." 10 He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. 11 And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. 12 As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. 13 Then the Lord said to Abram, "Know this for certain, that your offspring shall be aliens in a land that is not theirs, and shall be slaves there, and they shall be oppressed for four hundred years; 14 but I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. 15 As for yourself, you shall go to your ancestors in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. 16 And they shall come back here in the fourth generation; for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete." 17 When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. 18 On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates,

Psalm 27

- 1 The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom then shall I fear? *
the LORD is the strength of my life;
of whom then shall I be afraid?
- 2 When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh, *
it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who
stumbled and fell.
- 3 Though an army should encamp against me, *

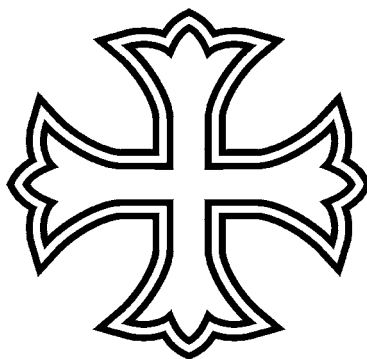
- yet my heart shall not be afraid;
- 4 And though war should rise up against me, *
yet will I put my trust in him.
- 5 One thing have I asked of the LORD;
one thing I seek; *
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days
of my life;
- 6 To behold the fair beauty of the LORD *
and to seek him in his temple.
- 7 For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe
in his shelter; *
he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling
and set me high upon a rock.
- 8 Even now he lifts up my head *
above my enemies round about me.
- 9 Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation
with sounds of great gladness; *
I will sing and make music to the LORD.
- 10 Hearken to my voice, O LORD, when I call; *
have mercy on me and answer me.
- 11 You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." *
Your face, LORD, will I seek.
- 12 Hide not your face from me, *
nor turn away your servant in displeasure.
- 13 You have been my helper;
cast me not away; *
do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.
- 14 Though my father and my mother forsake me, *
the LORD will sustain me.
- 15 Show me your way, O LORD; *
lead me on a level path, because of my enemies.
- 16 Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries, *
for false witnesses have risen up against me,
and also those who speak malice.
- 17 What if I had not believed
that I should see the goodness of the LORD *
in the land of the living!
- 18 O tarry and await the LORD'S pleasure;
be strong, and he shall comfort your heart; *
wait patiently for the LORD.

Philippians 3:14-4:1

14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. 15 Let those of us then who are mature be of the same mind; and if you think differently about anything, this too God will reveal to you. 16 Only let us hold fast to what we have attained. 17 Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. 18 For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. 19 Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. 20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. 21 He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. 4 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Luke 13:31-35

31 At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” 32 He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. 33 Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ 34 Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! 35 See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”



Comments on Today's Readings

With special thanks to the Rev. Reginald H. Fuller and the Rev. Daniel Westberg, of the Anglican Diocese of Montreal. While not intended to be exhaustive, these comments are an aid to reading the Scriptures with greater understanding.

Genesis 15:1-18

Verses 1-4, with which RCL begins, make clear the context of God's promise of prosperity to Abraham, his lack of a legitimate heir, and the vision in which the promises are given. This reading combines three different themes: Yahweh's promise of an abundant posterity to Abraham; Yahweh's promise of the land to Israel; and the sealing of that promise with a covenant ceremony. The book of Genesis contains several stories of God's establishment of the covenant with Abraham, all of them variants of the same tradition. In Abraham, God decisively intervened in human history to create a people for God's self. God's choice is, on God's side, a sheer act of grace; and faith is set, be it noted, not in the context of individual salvation, but in the context of a people's history. This is the context in which the Old Testament views *sofa gratis, sofa fide*. The apostle Paul discerned the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham in the Christ event and in the emergence of the new Israel, the church (Gal 3; Rom 4).

Philippians 3:14-4:1

Both the second reading and the gospel speak of a "change." The second reading speaks of the change of our earthly existence in the final consummation; the gospel speaks of the change of Jesus as he prayed on the holy mountain. The term "glorious body," like the term "spiritual body" that Paul uses in 1 Cor 15, reflects the apocalyptic hope. According to this hope, the life of the age to come will not be merely a prolongation of this present life but an entirely new, transformed mode of existence. It was into this mode of existence that Christ entered at his resurrection. But his resurrection is not merely an incident in his own personal biography, as it were; he entered into that existence as the "first fruits" (1 Cor 15:20), that is, as the one who made it possible for believers also to enter into that new mode of existence after him. That is the Christian hope.

Luke 13:31-35

This pericope has the merit of following the Lukan sequence and functions in much the same way as the transfiguration story points up the transition from Galilee to Jerusalem. It is probably the most historical of all three choices, for verse 33 has high claim to being an authentic saying of the historical Jesus. It indicates something of Jesus' historical intention in going up to Jerusalem, in the kind of terms he himself would have used. Thus, he speaks of himself as a prophet whose purpose is to lay down his prophetic challenge at the heart of Judaism and face the consequences. He does not use a messianic title nor speak of his death as a ransom or a second exodus. These were later, post-Easter interpretations of the meaning of Jesus' person and death, though, of course, true interpretations.

News & Notes

“Send Us Out:” Reading and Practicing the New Testament

meets Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., January 13 through June 2, in the Guild Room.

Participants will come away with an understanding of the New Testament and with practice together, showing God’s love through acts of kindness with no strings attached. Taught by the Pastor/Rector.

No previous knowledge or experience is necessary. Childcare is available upon request.



Workshop

Canon Timothy Dombek presents a workshop based on the book, *Ask, Thank, Tell* by the Rev. Charles Lane, a succinct and incisive guide for congregational planning, study and help in stewardship ministry. He will address the theological foundations for “discipleship based stewardship” as opposed to membership and maintenance. The workshop will equip parish leaders to undertake both educational and practical skills needed to address the challenges every parish faces today. This one day workshop will be held on Saturday March 13 from 10 am to 3:30 pm at St. Paul’s in Salinas. If you are interested in attending please contact Nathan at nathan@sttims.org

St. Timothy’s Preschool

Preschool Registration Has Begun

We have openings in our 3 year old class. Children must be turning three years old on or before December 2, 2010.

Tuesday and Thursday 3s

9:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Tuition is \$285 per month

We have openings in two classes for 4 year olds. Your child must be turning four on or before December 2, 2010.

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 4s

9:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Tuition is \$385 per month

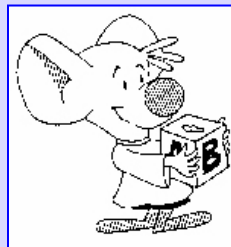
Tuesday and Thursday Science 4s

12:30 to 3:00 p.m.

Tuition is \$285 per month

Registration Fees must be paid to hold a place for your child. The fees are June, 2011 tuition in advance, plus a \$75 enrollment fee and a \$5 insurance fee. Enrollment is on a first-come, first-served basis. We opened registration to the public on January 4.

If you are interested, please call Preschool Director Helen Wooldridge at (650) 967-4724.



News & Notes

Prayer Vigil

A Prayer Vigil held in the Priest's Sacristy during Holy Week, beginning at the close of the Maundy Thursday service and continuing to the beginning of the Easter Vigil. The Prayer Vigil is divided into 3 hour blocks of time with prayer guides provided to facilitate making the most of your experience. Plan to come pray with a friend, family, or covenant group member, "For wherever two or more are gathered in MY Name, there I am in the midst of them."



Contact Nyna Dolby at nlcdolb@yahoo.com to sign up.
(Note: Thursday from 9-midnite and Friday from midnite to 6am are already reserved.)

Thank you for prioritizing prayerfulness during this Lenten season!

youth group news

Small Groups coming soon! All youth, stay tuned for dates and times. You will be receiving a call from your Youth Small Group Leader.

Sunday, Mar. 21st - Youth Family BROOMBALL

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW

Meet at Winter Lodge at 1:30 p.m. (Be on time!) Broomball, "Hot chocolate picnic" and fellowship until 4:00 p.m. \$20 for Youth, OR, \$50 maximum per family.

Don't miss this fabulously fun event!

Friday, April 2nd - Youth Overnight Easter Watch

WATCH!.... Wonder, Why?

Watch a movie, watch the "Son-rise", hide Easter eggs Saturday morning. Mark your calendars for Good Friday. Great things are being planned... Stay tuned for more details!

Wondering what to do this summer?

Summer Youth Mission Trips with the Diocese of El Camino Real to Native American reservations in Northern California.

The Jr High trip is from July 3-9 and the High School trip is July 17-24.

The cost for the trip is \$450 which includes lodging, food and travel expense from El Camino Real. It does not include food on the travel days.

Please prayerfully consider this opportunity! (Financial assistance is available.)

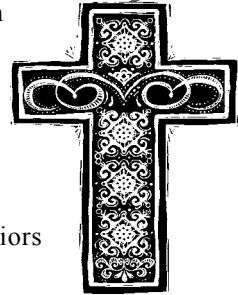
Coming Up

This Week

Sunday, February 28	
7:45 a.m.	Quiet & Meditative Worship
9:00 a.m.	Dynamic & Kid-Centered Worship
9:45 a.m.	Godly Play
9:50 a.m.	Breakfast Club
10:30 a.m.	Joyful & Inclusive Worship
11:45 a.m.	All Parish Meeting
Monday, March 1	
7:00 p.m.	Stephen Ministry Meeting
Wednesday, March 3	
5:15 p.m.	Kid's Music and Movement
5:45 p.m.	Kid's Choir
6:00 p.m.	Parish Dinner
6:00 p.m.	Youth Group Dinner and Meeting
7:00 p.m.	Jesus in the Gospels Continuation Group
Saturday, March 6	
11:00 a.m.	Kid's Choir

Celebration Leader Needed for Grant-Cuesta Sunday Service

St. Tim's new ministry at Grant-Cuesta Rehabilitation Center is seeking an additional volunteer to lead one Sunday morning service a month. The established 30 - 40 minute program uses video from St. Tim's 9:00 am Sunday services plus pre-selected prayers. The welcome you receive from an appreciative audience of 25 - 30 seniors will warm your heart.



For more information, please call Dick Yarp at 650-964-6432.

2010 Dates to Note:

February 28	Parish Meeting with New Beginnings
April 4	Easter

Contacts:

Clergy

The Rev. Nathan Speck-Ewer	Pastor/Rector cell for emergencies	nathan@sttims.org 408 470 8058
Nancy Livak	Parish Secretary	nancy@sttims.org
Peter Sammel	Music Director	peter@sttims.org
Lyn Cuenca	Financial Administrator	lyn@sttims.org
Steve Swayze	Building and Grounds	steve@sttims.org
Holly Hem	Youth Ministry Coach	hollyhem@gmail.com
Gwen Bindon	Stephen Ministry Referrals	gwenbindon@sbcglobal.net
Wyn Schuh	Godly Play Coach	wynsttims@boardsailor.com
Joseph Hodgkinson	Parish Host	info@fodacatering.com
Helen Wooldridge	Preschool Director	helen@sttimothypreschool.org

Saint Timothy's Episcopal Church
Office Hours: M-Th 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

2094 Grant Road
Mountain View, CA 94040

tel: (650) 967-4724
fax: (650) 967-4694

e: info@sttims.org
web: www.sttims.org

Day by Day



Day by Day is a daily, brief, thought-provoking meditation based on the day's Bible readings and published by Forward Movement, an official, non-profit agency of the The Episcopal Church. Full copies of the Day by Day publication are located at the back of the church for your convenience. This material is copyrighted by Forward Movement and may not be printed elsewhere without permission. For more information about Forward Movement or the Day by Day please visit www.forwardmovement.org

The year 2010 marks the 75th anniversary of Forward Movement. To celebrate the occasion this year's meditations will be reprints from the last seventy-five years chosen by a team of fifty volunteers. These selections were chosen to correspond to the lectionary citations from the 1979 Prayer Book and Revised Common Lectionary on which the meditations for this year would normally have been based.

Monday March 1

Psalm 57: I will confess you among the peoples, O LORD; I will sing praise to you among the nations.

Some of the idioms of the Psalter must be explained. "Peoples" and "nations" mean Gentiles, outsiders, uncircumcised, irreligious, pagan.

Those of us who are anxious over the increasing secularity of our society are more comfortable in a religious atmosphere, where the Bible is read in schools and God is honored in the fabric of our total society.

Another psalmist faces the fact that to live in a totally secular society is treachery to God: "How shall we sing the LORD'S song upon an alien soil?" (Psalm 137:4).

Today's psalmist, though, emphasizes the opposite side of the coin. In the midst of those who deny God, in the secular society and in the secular city, it is still possible to serve him. Our job is still to waken the dawn and to confess the Lord among the peoples, to sing to him among those who know him not. (1967)

In today's world, many feel threatened by secularization on the one hand and by an ascendant, confusing, and sometimes violent religious fervor on the other. How might we pray this psalm today?

-Editor's Note

PRAY for the Diocese of Bhopal (North India)

Tuesday March 2

Mark 3:19b-35. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you." And he replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" And looking at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

Perhaps verses 20 and 21, with their reference to his family's attempt to restrain Jesus, belong here. Did Jesus' friends bring blessed Mary from Nazareth upon the report that Jesus was losing his mind? Had the scribes been whispering in Nazareth in the hope that the mother would fetch him home and silence him? He had always been so good to her. But Jesus refuses to let blood kinship limit love kinship. He offers himself as brother to any who do God's will. That offer holds good today, no matter who you are or what you have been.

God comes first. His claim is prior even to a mother's or a motherland's. There is defeat in store for any nation which teaches its children that it is right to hate a brother race, or to claim from its citizens that worship and allegiance which belongs alone to God. (1936)

PRAY for the Diocese of Bida (Province of Abuja, Nigeria)

Wednesday March 3

Mark 4:1-20. Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundred-fold.

This is the beginning of Mark's chapter of parables, revealing Jesus' teaching rather than his mighty deeds. The parable of the sower is the most familiar. We are surprised, therefore, that it is explained so carefully. This may reflect an interpretation of Jesus' thought rather than the actual teaching, although Mark does say, in verse 34, that Jesus explained his parables later to his disciples. The emphasis is on the importance of attentive listening.

Surely in all good teaching all members of an audience get what they are equipped to receive, and Jesus would seem to encourage this, as he appears to in verses 10-12. How attentive are we to his message? How much do we get from it? Have we still deficiencies in the art of good listening? Do we do something about it? What is the good fruit we have borne? (1966)

Faith of our fathers! we will love both friend and foe in all our strife: and preach thee, too, as love knows how, by kindly deeds and virtuous life.
-Hymnal 1982, #558

PRAY for the Diocese of Birmingham (Canterbury, England)

Thursday March 4

Mark 4:21-34. The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how.

So that is the kingdom of God? I've always wondered.

Is it the kingdom of heaven? In Matthew (in the camel and eye of the needle story), Jesus talks about the two as though they are the same. As soon as the word heaven appears, I think fluffy clouds, ivory mansions, and gold streets. That's a wonderful ideal, but I need my meat and potatoes. Sometimes, my faith is pretty watery and I want to say, "What about right now?" I want to be able to touch that kingdom.

Jesus gives us that here. First of all, it's something we can comprehend. A person. A seed. Grain. Growing and maturing. Yeah, that's painting a simple enough picture. Ground. Night and day. A person sleeping, getting up, yawning, stretching, starting the day. Soil. I can touch that stuff.

This isn't up in the sky, some abstract vision conjured up by someone too holy to communicate with me. It's Jesus, and he's talking about things on the ground. Right now. Today. This very real moment. You. Me.

The kingdom. It is here. Welcome. (1998)

PRAY for the Diocese of Blackburn (York, England)

Friday March 5

Mark 4:35-41. Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?

We have all experienced that following Christ does not exempt us from storms. In fact it is in the "storms" that we experience the reality of Christ's presence and power and receive lessons we would never otherwise learn.

Our problem is our memories. The disciples, in the middle of today's gale force winds and towering waves that threaten to sink the boat, forget yesterday's miracles. They forget that the same Master who performed them is with them in the boat. Fear is the most irrational of emotions, and it is fear that fills their minds. Moreover, they imagine that the Jesus who showed such compassion yesterday has changed his character today, and has ceased to care.

Having calmed the sea, Jesus gently shows them that fear and faith are incompatible. Strangely, it is faith that is the more rational of the two. We need to remember that this same Jesus lives today, as our High Priest. He is still sympathetic to our weakness, patient with our faithlessness, and mighty in his power. (1982)

What storms in your life make you afraid? What miracles of yesterday can you recall to calm your fears?
-Editor's Note

PRAY for the Diocese of Bo (Sierra Leone, West Africa)



For Your Notes



CONNECTION CARD
ST. TIMOTHY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

WELCOME TO ST. TIMOTHY'S. WE ARE HONORED TO HAVE YOU WORSHIPPING WITH US TODAY. SO THAT WE MAY WELCOME YOU,
PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM AND DROP IT IN THE OFFERING PLATE OR HAND IT TO AN USHER AFTER THE SERVICE.

I'm a first-time visitor or guest I'm a second-time visitor or guest I'm a returning visitor or guest Please update my information

Service Attended _____ Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

To find out more about our weekly happenings, please add me to the parish email announcement list. (You can opt out at any time.)

I'd like more information about:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baptism/Confirmation | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Ministries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Ministries | <input type="checkbox"/> Covenant Groups/Bible Study |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Outreach | <input type="checkbox"/> Ways to Meet Others at St. Timothy's |

Prayer Requests/Comments/Questions: _____

How did you find out about us? _____