

THURSDAY, March 5

1 Corinthians 2:16b, 3:9. *But we have the mind of Christ...For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.*

Ps 50 * [59, 60] or 19, 46 | Genesis 39:1-23 | 1 Corinthians 2:14—3:15 | Mark 2:1-12

Visit any place of worship—cathedrals in war-torn countries or modern parishes built for efficiency and diversity of use—and you will see the love and care of communities and leaders evident in the architecture, ministry focus, and mission outreach of each congregation.

There seems to be a connection in having the mind of Christ, serving God, and working together. To those looking with “the mind of Christ” a sacred place will be seen as a “thin place” where we might discern a difference, a presence that calls us toward God.

Working together through time and space, through hours of personal and communal prayer, the very building can touch our souls as belonging to God. And being God's, that holy place can be found as much outside as inside a building.

PRAY for your own parish

MOVING FORWARD: What does it mean to you that you are God's field, God's building?

THURSDAY, March 12

Gregory the Great

Mark 4:26-27. *[Jesus] also said, “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.”*

Ps [70], 71 * 74 | Genesis 42:29-38 | 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 | Mark 4:21-34

Imagine yourself in that crowd around Jesus...pressing in to see him and touch him...maybe urgently and desperately...maybe just because that's what others are doing. At some point, you hear something that touches your heart, and you know your need and understanding has been more than met.

In that moment, your intimacy with Jesus feels like a familial and familiar connection. We can feel what it's like to be his sisters and brothers and mother, no longer outsiders. We don't have to hold on to secrets and can feel free to be drawn into the inner circle of the mystery and love of God.

Imagine truly recognizing God's love in action and taking that into the world. Go further, and wonder about whether people will see something different in you. Slowly but surely, small insights change the world.

PRAY for the Diocese of Jebba (Nigeria)

MOVING FORWARD: What small thing will you do with great love today?

THURSDAY, March 19

Saint Joseph

Luke 2:52. *And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.*

Ps 89:1-29 or 89:1-4, 26-29 | 2 Samuel 7:4, 8-16 | Romans 4:13-18 | Luke 2:41-52

I feel for young parents in church on Sunday mornings. They should be cheered regularly—and loudly. I know what it's like to struggle to get to church on time before (maybe) the first hymn, with children who look like they had just gotten out of bed (because they did), disturbing the early birds in the congregation who considerately left a free pew halfway down the aisle in front of Hissing Joan (who does not like children) and Toffee-bribe Mary (who always has candy for them).

My heart treasures the memories of my toddler on my lap, sucking his thumb and awestruck by the stained glass windows and of my eldest leading his little sister off to Sunday School. I remember the priest who led midweek child-friendly services and the bishop who sat on the ground with our children. An entire community has raised children in our Father's house.

PRAY for the Diocese of Kafanchan (Nigeria)

MOVING FORWARD: Does your church welcome children? How do you welcome children?

THURSDAY, March 26

Harriet Monsell

Mark 8:29-30. *[Jesus] asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.*

Ps 69:1-23(24-30)31-38 * 73 | Exodus 1:6-22 | 1 Corinthians 12:12-26 | Mark 8:27-9:1

We're talking about names again. Google lists more than 200 titles for Jesus in the Bible—the most common is Son of God. The title Messiah is in use—with great caution—during Jesus' ministry. With his death and resurrection, the meaning of Messiah has grown into meaning more than a righteous, anointed ruler.

Jesus' brothers and sisters in faith have waited for the Messiah—their strong Deliverer—since the days of Isaiah, Daniel, and all the other prophets. For the disciples—and you and me—it becomes clear that Jesus has another agenda, that the timing of revealing it is important. This is made manifest by the Holy Spirit after the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus—and those who bear his name have been carrying out that agenda ever since.

PRAY for the Diocese of Kanyakumari (South India)

MOVING FORWARD: Many people find meditating on the names of Jesus to be a wonderful way to calm their minds. See if you can find a list—or make one of your own—that works for you.

THURSDAY, April 2

James L. Breck

Psalm 132:3-5. *I will not come under the roof of my house nor climb up into my bed; I will not allow my eyes to sleep, nor let my eyelids slumber; until I find a place for the Lord, a dwelling for the Mighty One of Jacob.*

Ps 131, 132, [133] * 140, 142 | Exodus 7:25—8:19 | 2 Corinthians 3:7-18 | Mark 10:17-31

This search for your dwelling place has kept my heart wide open, even as my eyes struggle against my need for sleep. It has rained for days—the only sound is the river pulling at tree roots, covering animal and boot tracks along the bank. The punctuation marks of birds fly against the clouds, and I imagine them searching for clauses the wind rearranged and blew away. I wonder about those jumbled words and why the river's current sounds like sand being brushed off the sky.

Then I understand. "Yes. Here, Lord," I say aloud toward the place where one ray of sunshine has found its way through an opening in my cloudy heart. I hear a whisper, Dwell here, within me. And see what happens next.

PRAY for the Diocese of Karnataka South (South India)

MOVING FORWARD: What do you think God's dwelling place looks like? Make a collage or share a word picture with a friend.

THURSDAY, April 9

Maundy Thursday

John 13:1. *Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.*

Ps 116:1,10-17 | Exodus 12:1-4,(5-10), 11-14 | 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 | John 13:1-17, 31b-35

I can imagine a conversation between Peter and Jesus that never happened but feels real to me. In my head, it takes place just after the Last Supper.

What are you still doing here, Jesus? You've given us enough. You've given us everything. Save yourself now. You know Judas has betrayed you. If you do not escape, you will be arrested and killed. Let me love you—let all of us love you—by helping get out of Jerusalem. The Romans are coming.

Peter, it's not just you and our friends or the Jews I have come to save. It was always going to take everything we had to do this. I'm not afraid, and you shouldn't be either. God is love and love conquers hate. All things are being made new, even in times and places beyond your reckoning.

I'll see you on Sunday.

PRAY for your own diocese

MOVING FORWARD: Write your own conversation between Jesus and a disciple.

THURSDAY, April 16

Thursday in Easter Week

Luke 24:36-38. *While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?"*

Ps 8 or 114 or 118:19-24 | Acts 3:11-26 | Luke 24:36b-48

Deep in the longest drought on record, one man stood among them, believing in rain. The skeptics said that it was only a ghost or someone's imagination or—if he was genuinely resurrected, it didn't really matter because it was simply his own precipitation and nothing more.

And all of them wanted proof as they began looking for umbrellas and raincoats, maybe boots to keep their feet dry. Raindrops landed everywhere, and the dry ground began to drink. The

people began to sate their own thirsty prayer that the desert they'd felt inside them since his crucifixion would become a well of living water instead. And that is exactly what happened.

PRAY for the Diocese of Kimberly & Kuruman (Southern Africa)

MOVING FORWARD: Do some research on the Anglican Cycle of Prayer. What does it mean to you to pray for fellow Anglicans around the world?

THURSDAY APRIL 23

Toyohiko Kagawa

John 15:16-17. *You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.*

Ps 18:1-20 * 18:21-50 | Exodus 16:10-22 | 1 Peter 2:11-25 | John 15:12-27

In a dream, I opened my eyes for the first time and was surrounded by wondrous colors. Nothing was afraid of the colors. Nothing was broken by the colors. I saw children running happily through fields, singing joyously with their parents, who seemed like children again. They all picked flowers that did not fade.

I heard them speaking as if their voices were the whole sky. They sang songs that made the elephants dance. Nothing growled. Everything grew and grew. People loved each other truly and deeply.

In the next dream, I saw footprints in the snow. I followed them, feeling like I was praying. And I found you, Lord, waiting for me. Waiting for us all. Then you told me to wake up and start painting the world with the colors you had given me—all the colors of love.

PRAY for the Diocese of Kiteto (Tanzania)

MOVING FORWARD: If you were making a color wheel, what colors would love be? Happiness? Peace?

THURSDAY April 30

Matthew 4:11. *Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.*

Ps 37:1-18 * 37:19-42 | Exodus 20:1-21 | Colossians 1:24—2:7 | Matthew 4:1-11

I found Jesus, weary from weeks of fasting, being tempted by the devil. Turn the stones into bread, throw yourself off the temple, fall down and worship me.

No, Jesus answered, I will not. You know what's going to happen, the devil said. I do, Jesus replied. You'd really go through it again? To save one single person? Even the ones with the hammers and the nails? Even the one who betrayed you?

Yes, Jesus answered, for all of them, for any one of them, even if there were only one. What a futile gesture. They're going to crucify all of the light they refuse to see. I would give you all of the kingdoms of the world, the devil said.

There is no futility in truly loving someone, Jesus answered. I watched the devil shake his head and leave. Then the angels came, Jesus found me, touched the Judas place inside me, and I finally understood. The flowers of Golgotha are you and me, and Jesus is the gardener.

PRAY for the Diocese of Kondoa (Tanzania)

MOVING FORWARD: Do you have a Judas place in your heart? How does Jesus come and meet you in that place?