

IT'S PERMANENT.

Jesus told His followers that He would not drink of this cup again until He did so in His Father's kingdom. The Communion memorial has lasted for nearly 2,000 years, and will continue until He comes again.

IT'S PROFOUND.

There is something deeply spiritual that occurs when participating in the Lord's Supper with the right spirit. Jesus said, "For My flesh is real food and My blood is real drink. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood remains in Me, and I in them" (John 6:55-56).

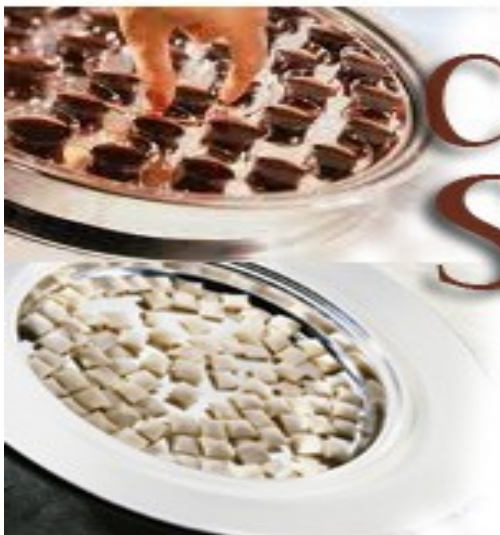
SUBSTITUTIONARY DEATH

In this lifetime we can never fully understand the mystery and the significance that occurs when we participate in this memorial.

When you eat this bread and drink this cup, you draw near to the cross. And if you look closely, you will see your name written on that cross. Not that you died there, but this is a vivid reminder that Jesus died there in your place.

INDEED THE WORLD'S MOST IMPRESSIVE MEMORIAL

*ST. ANDREW'S OFFERS YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS
MEMORIAL*



Communion Sunday

Sunday March 5th

Staying Word

with
Dona Simpson



Elijah Episode #7 And We Too Shall Rise. (2 Kings 2:1-12)

Throughout history humankind has been intrigued with the mystery of defying gravity and the desire to float upward. In Greek Mythology Icarus tried to do just that with disastrous results. Daedalus, his father crafted a set of wings made with feathers adhered to a wooden frame with wax. He warned his son not to fly too near the sun or the wax would melt, but Icarus ignored his father's warning and Icarus plunged to his death in the sea. Of course this story is a myth handed down over the generations but there is a story in the Old Testament of someone who did not die but left the earth in a chariot carried upward in a whirlwind. The story is of Elijah the prophet of God in the land of Israel.

On Elijah's final journey he was accompanied by Elisha whom he earlier had anointed to follow him as God's prophet to Israel. Elijah told Elisha to stay in Gilgal while he continued on the journey, but Elisha insisted on continuing on with Elijah. They continued on to the River Jordan where Elijah performed his final miracle. In order to cross the Jordan River, Elijah rolled up his mantle (or robe) and struck the water (2 Kings 2:8). The water parted and both men crossed on dry land.

It was customary at the time of death to give something to the person remaining. Elijah asked Elisha, *"Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you"* (2 Kings 2:9). Elisha's wise answer was, *"Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit"* (2:9). Elisha's request for a double portion was asking for an inheritance similar to the double share received by the firstborn son from an estate as explained in the (**Old Testament Survey**, Page 205 and recorded in Deuteronomy 21:17). To realize his request, Elisha was instructed to watch. Elijah said, *"...if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not"* (2 Kings

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2:10).

The two walked on; suddenly a chariot of fire with horses of fire gathered up Elijah and he ascended in a whirlwind into heaven (2 Kings 2:11). It is recorded that Elisha kept watch and cried out, “...Father, father” as *Elijah disappeared into the sky* (2:12). Elisha was distraught at seeing his mentor leaving in such a manner and he tore his clothes as a sign of grief. Now it was up to him to take up the mantle and serve as God’s prophet to Israel. As he approached the Jordan River on his return to Jericho he struck the water with Elijah’s mantle and the water parted as it had for Elijah (2:14). When Elisha returned to Jericho, fifty prophets met him there and insisted on searching for Elijah. Although they searched for three days, Elijah’s body was never found.



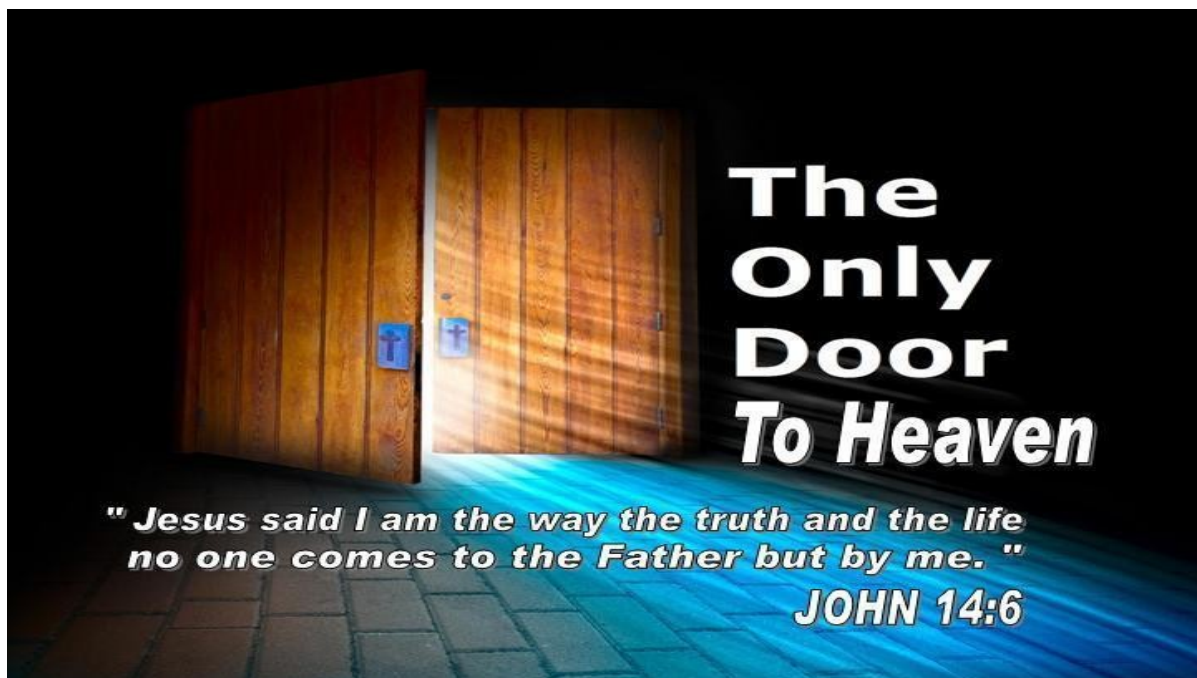
There is a story in the New Testament of One who ascended into Heaven. The story is found in Luke 24 and Acts 1. Following the resurrection of Jesus from the dead He led His disciples to Bethany and after He blessed them He was lifted up into Heaven (Luke 24:51). As Elisha watched Elijah as he was carried off in a chariot of fire, so the disciples watched as Jesus ascended into Heaven. Jesus left an inheritance to His disciples, similar to Elijah’s gift to Elisha. Jesus promised the disciples that they would “...receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you...” (Acts 1: 8). The booklet **Living Faith** explains that the Holy Spirit is, “... God with us” (Page 13, 4.1).

As Jesus ascended, two men in white robes mingled with the disciples and said, “... why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who had been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven” (Acts 1:11). Jesus promised that He will return and as Elijah was caught up in a whirlwind, we too shall be caught up to meet Him on the last day. There will be a resurrection of the dead, and then believers who are alive will rise up to meet Jesus in the air. Paul explains how this will occur in his letter to the church at Thessalonica, “For the LORD Himself,...with the sound of God’s trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the LORD in the air; and so we will be with the LORD forever” (1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17). **A Catechism for Today** says that Jesus will return as He said He would and Christians will be transformed to be like Him (Question #94 Page 94).

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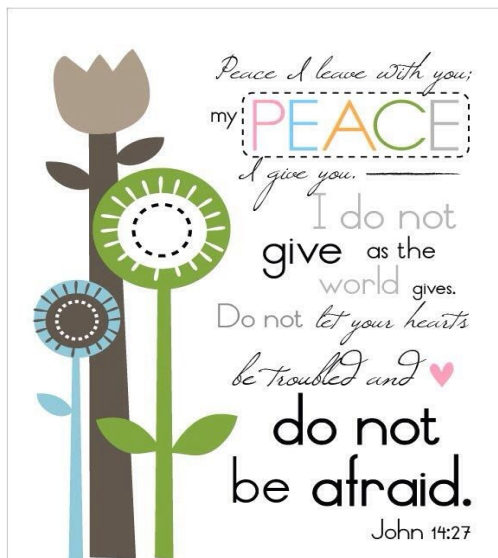
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Jesus told His disciples that He has prepared a place for Christians, *"In my father's house are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?"* (John 14:2). Throughout scripture, believers are urged to prepare for the day of His return. Jesus will return and take those who are watching to be with Him (John 14:3). Jesus told His disciples the parable of the Ten Virgins to illustrate the point of being prepared and watching for the day of His return. Matthew records that five of the virgins had their lamps trimmed and a flask of oil prepared but the foolish virgins were asleep and had not made preparation for the return of the bridegroom (Matthew 25: 1-13). When the bridegroom came at an unexpected time, he took the virgins with their lamps full of oil inside to enjoy the banquet and the five foolish virgins were locked out. Jesus was saying that not everyone will be ready and watching for His return. Matthew records that the day of Christ's return will be like a thief in the night, and he says that, *"...two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left"* (Matthew 24:40, 41). Jesus when speaking to His disciples explained that there is one way to be prepared for that day. He is saying the same to us today, *"I am the way, and the truth, and the life"* (John 14:6). We need not manufacture wings as Daedalus did for his son Icarus; gravity will not hold Christians on the earth. As Elisha was instructed to watch; Christians are instructed to watch.





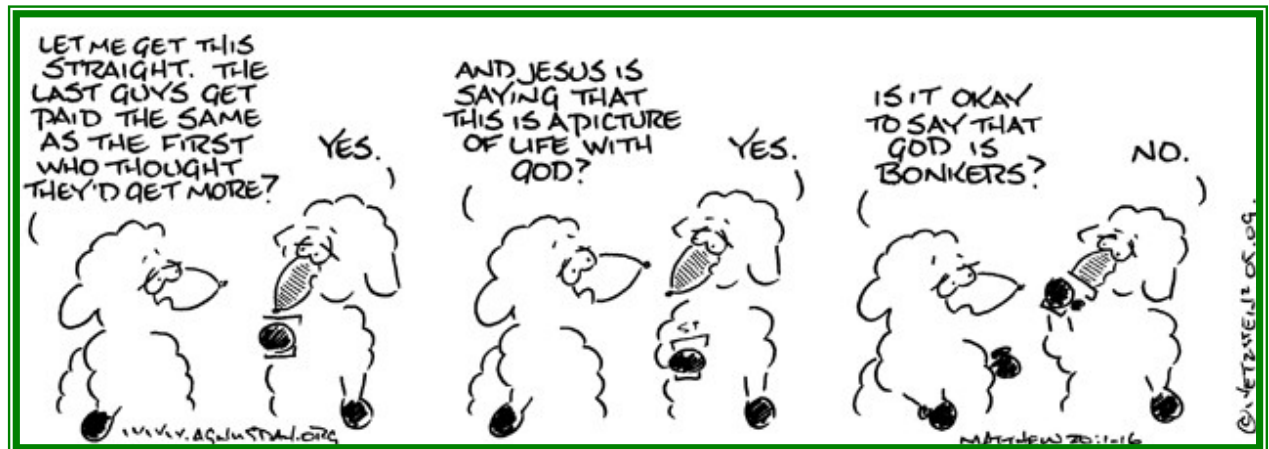
WE MOURN WITH
our dear friend
PEGGY CUNNINGHAM
On the loss of her husband
BILL CUNNINGHAM
The oldest member of
St. Andrew's



God has called home our
dear friend and long time
member
EDWARD W. (TED JONES)
We mourn with his brother
Rev. Hugh Jones Ret'd

Written by the women of the Philippines

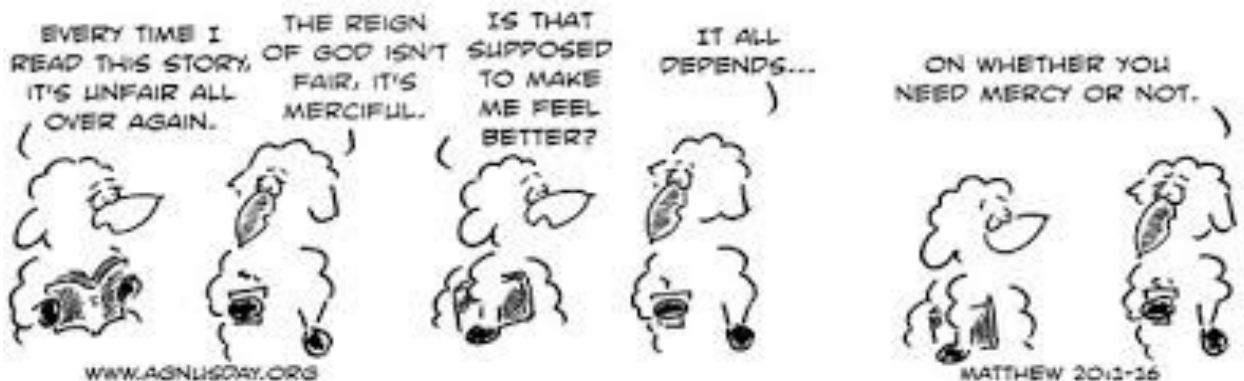
Matthew 20: 1– 16



I hope you had a giggle at the cartoon on the previous page. If you did I'm in good company. Read on..... On Sunday morning Dr. Human began his sermon on turning the other cheek? Didn't you just want to say with a smirk "Ya sure I will". This is another bible truth that makes one think "I don't get it God, "What's wrong with me". Depending on my mood at the time of reading, passages like this are often given the quick glance and Movin' On Treatment. It just isn't fair.

When the women of the Philippines were in the throws of writing and producing the 2017 WDOP service, their island country was hit by a violent hurricane. For some of the poorest of the poor in that country their shack like homes were converted into mounds of rubble. Families who dwelt on rag tag fishing boats drowned in the same sea that had nourished and sustained them all their lives. Not all families were effected the same way. Those with financial means who live and work in hurricane secure structures escaped unscathed. If God isn't bonkers, is He just cruel? Are some more worthy of His protection than others? Why? Where is the fairness?

The WDOP service opens with an invitation to Come to the Circle. On behalf of the women of St. Mary Star of the Sea Roman Catholic Church, I invite each and every member of St. Andrew's to come and be a part of the world wide circle of women and men that will be joining together throughout the day to pray for our world and all people who dwell on it.



Before you come into St. Mary's Friday morning, think of your life and the times when you felt God has not dealt fairly with you. Like the sheep above did the answer or lack thereof make you feel better? Did you need God's mercy? Would God's mercy be sufficient for your needs?

Come and hear the stories of others and ponder the blessings God has given to those of us who live here on the shores of Lake Ontario.

According to Stats Canada people from the Philippines formed the largest group of immigrants in 2014. Many are women and come as caregivers.

Why are we entitled to our safe secure permanent homes and a health care system, no matter how we feel about it, and yet we allow our elected government to make laws that make it difficult for low income immigrants and refugees to obtain permanent residence and access to health care services.

Where do I stand God. If my life of abundance and privilege be stripped away from me will I be eligible for God's mercy? Will I know it when I'm given it?



Sometimes it helps in the moment to think

PEOPLE AREN'T *being* DIFFICULT
THEY ARE *having* DIFFICULTY UNDERSTANDING

We're calling on **ALL MEMBERS BOTH MEN AND WOMEN** to be
part of the St. Andrew's delegation to the

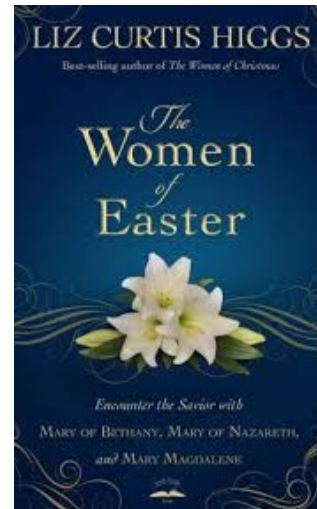
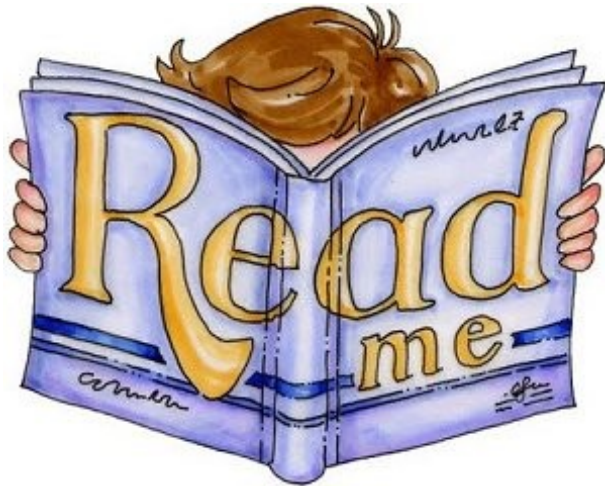
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE

at

St. Mary Star of the Sea

11 Peter Street

FRIDAY MARCH 3RD



Last month I reviewed a book about two biblical women Mary and Martha. This month, another of my favorite writers Liz Curtis Higgs included Mary and Martha at another time in their life in her Book *The Women of Easter*.

Mary and Martha of Bethany, who were witness to Jesus' miracle of raising their brother Lazarus from the dead. Mary of Nazareth, the mother of Jesus, who bore this man in her womb, raised him to manhood and now was there to witness his death. Mary Magdalene a devoted follower who was healed by Jesus and chose to follow Him right to His death on the cross.



Each of these women had an encounter with Jesus. Each encounter was different, but each encounter changed each woman. As Joanne Weaver put it no one can encounter Jesus and not be changed.

This book reads like a play with scenes opening before you and seeing women in real life situations much the same as women today face.

Could we stay through the entire crucifixion? Could I pull myself together enough after the death to prepare the body for burial? Would I have enough reserved strength left to rise early to go to the grave site?

This book will guide you through your struggles helping you to arrive at the end of the struggle with a deeper understanding of Easter and life.

Denise's



IN SPITE OF IT ALL

In spite of all the chaos around me
Of leadership changing
And riots hoping to avert what is
to be
Storms breaking and washed out
homes
Torn up fences
Loss of lives
Hope breathes
In helping hands, calming words
And raised spirits.

In spite of all the drudge
The dread of what the day may
bring
Of sickness, poverty and hunger
And terrible twists of fate
Cruelties abounding
Children crying
Wretched states and lost dignity
Faith is found

In the acts of kindness
The merit of choices
Opportunities given and not
passed by.

In spite of all our anger
And helplessness
Of trying too hard
Feeling keenly the failures
Watching those we love wither
away
Or forcibly taken
The pain and sorrow
Compounded in fear and doubts
Compassion can be felt
In the comfort of believing
The strength of

mercy™

Given freely through

Fellowship

With no purpose other than to
heal.

In spite of all the complaints
The lack of color
Not merely black or white or grey
The loss of faculties as we age
No clear vision
Or deterring what we are meant to
do
No hearing
Or really listening for the call
And the slowing down of mobility
Going places, seeing things and
doing
There is love
In the rainbow's beauty after a



rainstorm
In a hug encompassing all hurts
Love all around us
If we but look
With fresh eyes anew
Awash with the wonder
Of all that was created
All that we are a part of
In spite of it all
That love will find YOU!

Curing vs. Healing

In *We Know How This Ends* (Univ. of Minnesota Press), Bruce Kramer writes about “living while dying” from Lou Gehrig’s disease. While not denying his impending death, Kramer focuses on getting as much as possible out of the life God has asked him to live now. To reach a satisfactory conclusion to the questions “Why me - why now?” Kramer makes a unique distinction.

“Know the difference between curing and healing,” he writes. “Curing implies that things will be brought back to the way they were. ... Expecting a cure will only result in frustration and disappointment. But healing can take place.”

One can happen without the other. We know people with disease or disability whose spirits are vibrant and faithful. Though they haven’t been cured, their lives are marked by God’s healing touch. Even in the Gospels, Jesus’ curing of ailments was often a sign of his greater healing: sins forgiven, community restored, faith embraced.