



EMMANUEL NEWS

January 2017

www.alexmnepiscopal.org episcopal@centurylink.net

From Charles Preble

Where is God?

This poem, 'Mercy', came to me almost in one sitting. I have used it in a homily, and I hesitate to use it again. Yet I use it again because it says something that I want to say in a few words. So bear with me. Where is God? I cannot answer it fully. No one can. One thing I can say is that God happens. God happens when embodied in the actions of a person. As Christians we acknowledge that God happened in the person Jesus. As Christians we begin to see a bit of God in that life lived two thousand years ago.

Mercy is an English word coming from fourteenth century French, 'Merci', meaning 'thank you.' It is a word we use for 'God's loving kindness. If you read the Psalms you hear that God's loving kindness is everlasting. It is love incarnated in actions.

For us as Christians part of the answer to the question "Where is God?" Is that God is where mercy is. In other words where there is love there is God. If there is love it is God. When we do acts of love we are allowing God to be made real through us: each of us and all of us. Our faith community demonstrates God when we care for those who grieve, starve, are homeless, in prison, and in many other ways. There is God.

God bless you and let us each and all be God's blessing.

Contact us:

Emmanuel Episcopal Church

P O Box 231
12th Avenue and Lake Street
Alexandria, MN 56308
320-763-3201

Sunday Service: 10 a.m.

Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

Adult Bible Study: 9 a.m.

Pastoral Care: Contact Rev. Tom Sinning, Deacon at 612-720-0473

Support Staff

DeAnn Runge, email:

episcopal@centurylink.net

Newsletter: DeAnn Runge
drunge@embarqmail.com

Godly Play Director/Teacher:
Verlie Sinning
vsinning0707@gmail.com

Vestry:

Tim Johnson, Co-Sr. Warden ('18)
Sheila Stanton, Co-Sr. Warden ('18)
John Hull Jr. Warden ('17)
Verlie Sinning Treasurer ('17)
Mary Sinning ('17)
Rachael Sinning ('18)
Wendy Zander ('18)
Farren Morical ('18)

Delegates to Region and Convention:

Belvin Doebbert
Alternate: JoEllen Doebbert

Mercy

If you are thrown out
of your home, she
brings you into her own.
She knows what it means
to have no place to go.
She gives you her coat
when you have lost your
only one. She stays up
late with you when you
grieve. She doesn't leave
the room when you rage;
she listens even more.
She will hear you when no one
else will give it a try.
She brings you hot soup
when you are sick and even
when you're not — thought
you just might like it. If you are new
in town, she shows you around.
She is first in line to forgive you,
even before you knew to ask.
She doesn't hold a grudge,
she knows it belongs in the trash.
Mercy seeks you out when you're
alone in a crowd. She knows
how it is to feel out of place.
She doesn't need to get ahead—
she's content to walk at your side.
She doesn't have to be right.
She wants to hear your side.
Don't ask her for the score,
she doesn't know, nor care. While
I write this, she smiles and says,
Keep on, I know you can do it.
As the day ends, just before you
fall asleep, listen. Hear her whisper,
Merci!



Senior Warden Report January, 2017

I've been told that feeling as if time is going fast is a sign of age. If that is indeed the case, I'm aging at a very good pace! I cannot believe that as I write this, we are less than one week away from Christmas and will very soon be entering another new year!

2016 has been a year that we have spent making various repairs and improvements to our building and property in general. Some have been planned and some had not been planned. As most of you are aware by now, we recently had issues with our plumbing system again. Ellingson's responded to our Sunday call and resolved the problem before the day was over. ServiceMaster arrived the next morning to sanitize the affected areas of the building and all is back in shape! Many thanks to Karen for her guidance and help with calling, and for sitting out the situation with me! We are thinking that the potential for this happening again in the not too distant future is likely. I would also like to extend thanks to Josh for being willing to research this matter for us! Hopefully this aspect of our building will become a non-issue once any necessary repairs are made.

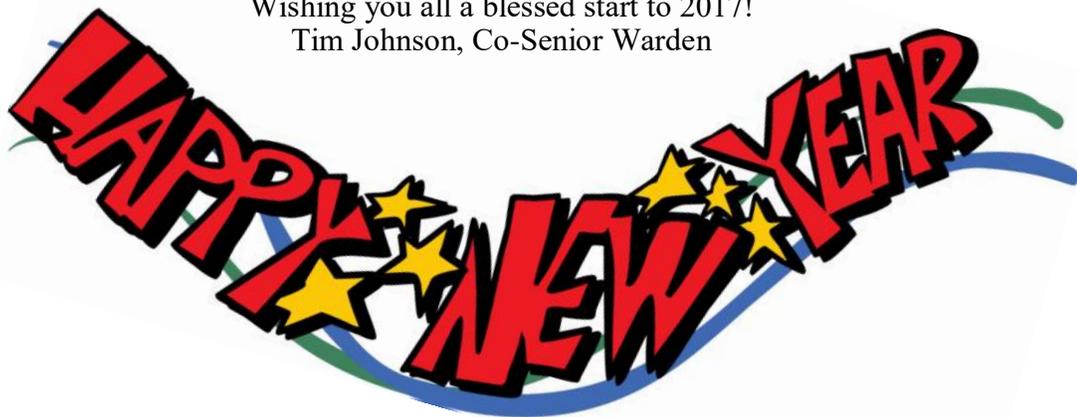
On the positive (planned) side of things, Verlie and Wendy have repurposed the former computer room into a financial office which gives much needed working and filing space for this aspect of parish life. The former jumble sale room in the undercroft has been cleaned out and Karen is developing plans to turn this into a room where we will display our history and mission work. Much ground work (no pun intended) was made with trimming and removing unhealthy trees and brush to prepare for the upgrade to our Prayer Garden which will continue this next spring. John did a great deal of painting which has brightened up many areas of the church.

It has indeed been an eventful year. The passing of a number of our brothers and sisters have resulted in some times of great sadness for us. We lovingly remember and miss each of them. But we continue to remain a close parish family and although we are small, we are extremely vibrant! We continue our traditions such as the Salad Supper in the spring and the Great Thanksgiving Feast in the fall. Our missions and outreach have grown to include The Necessity bags to benefit the food shelf, Dylan's Gloves of Love, the Heartland Girls' Ranch, and the United Thank Offering.

As we look forward to 2017, please mark a couple of things on your calendar. Please prayerfully consider what you are able to share with our church family life and return pledge cards to Verlie or myself by January 10th. Reports for the annual meeting should be turned in to Karen no later than January 18th. Last, but certainly not least . . . Our Annual Meeting will take place after the Service on January 29th. Please plan to attend this very important event! Lunch will be provided.

In closing, I would like to thank all of you for assisting Sheila and myself through our first year of leading you as co-Senior Wardens! It has indeed been a bumpy ride at times, but we've made it!

Wishing you all a blessed start to 2017!
Tim Johnson, Co-Senior Warden





Hymn of the Month

By Tim Johnson

Hymn #121 First Line Title: “Christ, when for us you were baptized” Tune Name: *Caithness*
Text Author: F. Bland Tucker (18895-1984) Tune Source: Melody from *The Psalmes of David in Prose and Meeter*; 1635; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

Having ended the short seasons of Advent and Christmas (Especially the latter season during which we remain for the most part with familiar carols), we once again are resuming our project of having a Hymn of the Month. Having now entered into Epiphany, the Friends of Music Committee has made a selection from that section of our Hymnal 1982 to serve this purpose for the month of January.

The author of the text for “Christ, when for us you were baptized” was F. Bland Tucker, the son of a bishop and the brother to Henry St. George Tucker, the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church from 1938 to 1946. He was born in Norfolk, Virginia in 1895 and attended the University of Virginia as well as the Virginia Theological Seminary. In 1918, he was ordained to the diaconate and then to the priesthood in 1920. Tucker served parishes in Virginia, Washington D.C., and Georgia and was named to the Joint Commission on the Revision of the Hymnal 1937 which led to the publication of the Hymnal 1940. From 1946 to 1958, he served on the Joint Commission on Church Music of the Episcopal Church and eventually on the Theological Committee which reviewed the material to be included in the Hymnal 1982, the successor to the Hymnal 1940. Sources reveal that he had never considered the prospect of writing a hymn until these appointments. Interestingly, he had great poetic talent when it came to writing new phrases for older hymns where the original text proved too outdated or sexist for more recent times. A great number of the hymns that he wrote for the Hymnal 1940 not only were re-published in the Hymnal 1982 (According to the index, he is credited with 26 titles!) but have also been adopted by hymnals of other denominations.

As is quite often the case with hymn tunes, sources reveal very little with regard to *Caithness*, the melody assigned to this hymn. The first known appearance of it in print was as a part of a collection from 1635 entitled “The Psalmes of David in Prose and Meeter”. Although it was not assigned to any particular hymn or psalm in this volume, it later was used as the tune for “O for a closer walk with God” in *The English Hymnal* 1906. This same hymn using this tune appears as #683 in our hymnal 1982. As I’ve mentioned more than once in the past, melodies which originate in the British Isles seem to frequently be assigned a place name as their title. *Caithness* is a “Historic County” (a land region which was a governmental area in the Middle Ages but which has since lost its political identity) in the very northern reaches of Scotland. Thus it would stand to reason that the melody perhaps originated in that corner of the world.

Sources:

http://www.hymnary.org/person/Tucker_Bland

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caithness>

Lectionary Readings for January

January 1

The Holy Name

Numbers 6:22-27
Galatians 4:4-7
or Philippians 2:5-11
Luke 2:15-21
Psalm 8

January 8

First Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 42:1-9
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-17
Psalm 29

January 15

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 49:1-7
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42
Psalm 40:1-12

January 22

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 9:1-4
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23
Psalm 27:1, 5-13

January 29

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Micah 6:1-8
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Matthew 5:1-12
Psalm 15



Position	January 1	January 8	January 15	January 22	January 29
	<i>Morning Prayer</i>				
Priest	Tom Sinning	Fred Nairn	Charles Preble	Fred Nairn	Dana Emery
Organist	Laurie Krueger	Bev Steuck	JoNette Brogaard	Nancy Anderson	Virginia Hegre
Lector 1	Mark Reicks	Wendy Zander	Mark Reicks	JoEllen Doebbert	Belvin Doebbert
Lector 2	Karen Reicks	Laird Barber	Farren Morical	Belvin Doebbert	JoEllen Doebbert
Altar	Karen Reicks		Tim Johnson		
Coffee	Edith Kelly	Mark & Karen	Farren Morical	Doebberts	<i>Annual Meeting</i>

Remember in Your Prayers:: All clergy serving Emmanuel - Bishop Brian Prior - Jana & Charles Preble - Don & Ann Hultstrand - Laird Barber - Hunter Botz - John - The Weinmann Family - Mike & Lana - Jim - Edith's daughter Dana - JoEllen's father Al - Total Ministry Team - Law Enforcement Officers - Military Personnel - Peace in the World - The Food Shelf, volunteers & all who use it - Heartland Girls Ranch - People affected by Hurricane Mathew





Address service requested

Emmanuel Episcopal Church
P O Box 231
Alexandria, MN 56308