

From: St. Francis Episcopal Church vicar@stfrancisva.org
Subject: Going First
Date: October 10, 2018 at 7:58 AM
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St Francis



October 10, 2018

Going First

*Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?*

Psalm 119:6

Precede

The collect for this coming Sunday is very, very helpful (of course, they all are). Here it is:

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The idea here is that wherever we are going God has gone ahead of us and already there when we arrive. Whatever it is we want in the deepest part of our hearts, God has wanted it for us long before we did. That is one of the greatest things about following Jesus. He is always there before are.

Blocking

It is easy for some of us to think that God is trying to prevent us from doing things. We might think that he goes ahead of us to keep us from doing things. This comes from a lot of sources. One of them is the early use of the word "prevent." It used to mean "to go before." Which is exactly what God does. The new meaning of the old word can cause us some trouble. We can think that God will try to stop us, stunt our growth, correct us, and straighten us out. The opposite, however, is true. He meets us where we are all the time to bring out the great gifts we were created with. Can you sense the presence of God with you right now, right where you are?

Coming Attractions

Sunday, October 14, 2018 Worship at 10:00am followed by pot luck

Wednesday, October 17, 2018 Theology on Tap at 6:30pm at Keegan's. contact Richard at richardandhedy@yahoo.com

Sunday, October 21, 2018 Worship at 10:00am

The first Sunday of each month, after church, Karen & Chris Webber will be collecting donated food from the Food Lion in Centerville and taking it to the food pantry. This would be an ideal time for anyone in the church to bring in their own donations!! The food pantry is in dire need of cereal, canned soups, and canned vegetables (not generally things donated by grocery stores). If this is something you would like to contribute to, just

bring it to church and we would make sure it was delivered to the food pantry.

Please help us in the fun sharing our favorite recipes, in the form of a St. Francis cookbook. Please bring your recipes to the pot luck each month, and give to Libby or Karen. You can also email to lcp@libbyclarkphotography.com.

Centerville Circle of Prayer

Rate Pro mortgages that business would increase

The Diocese of Virginia

For the people of Emmanuel, Harrisonburg; Emmanuel, Alexandria; Grace, Port Republic; St. Gabriel's, Leesburg; and All Souls, Atlee that they would continually walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Anglican Communion

For the people of Ijumu - (Lokoja, Nigeria) [The Ven Paul Olarewaju Ojo](#) that they would continually walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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