

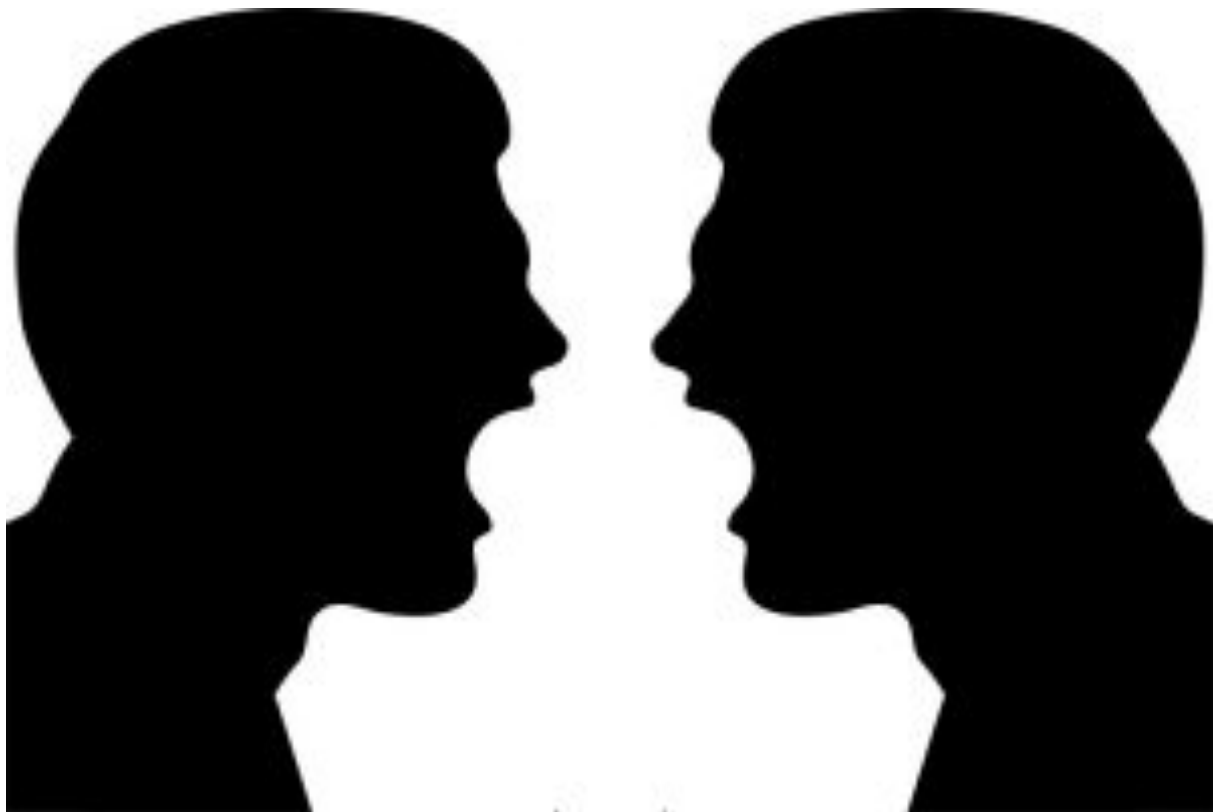
**From:** St. Francis Episcopal Church vicar@stfrancisva.org  
**Subject:** Your Enemies  
**Date:** February 6, 2019 at 8:42 AM  
**To:** mjweatherford16@gmail.com



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St Francis



February 6, 2019

**Your Enemies**

*But I tell you love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. Matthew 5:44*

### ***Have You Noticed ?***

It is difficult to disagree these days. So often we see people saying demeaning things, or worse, about people with whom they disagree. So often we hear things said that are personally degrading about someone who is on the other side, in a different camp, or belongs to a different party. The actual substance of the disagreement on policy or ideas is covered over by the personal attacks leveled against someone who is on the other side. I am not suggesting that we be nice to each other, although that is a good idea. It is impossible to keep that up all the time, especially when our culture is so polarized and accusatory. I have a different suggestion.

### ***Following Jesus In The Presence Of Our Enemies***

I believe that Jesus is calling everyone to follow Him. He is even calling our enemies, the ones who are on the other side, the ones we are tempted to demean, to follow Him. My suggestion is this: Try to see what Jesus thinks and feels about someone you want insult or demean in some way. What is Jesus doing in the life of that person? Can you see what Jesus sees when you look at that person? Can you do that for your political opponents? Can you do that for those who have insulted you or hurt you in some way. Can you do that for people who have been unjust towards your family or your race? Can you follow Jesus in the presence of your enemies by seeing them as He sees them?

### ***One More Thought***

Lent is coming up soon. Maybe you have been thinking about what to give up already. Maybe it would be worthwhile for us to give up hating our enemies.

## **Coming Attractions**

***Sunday, February 10, 2019*** Worship at 10:00am followed by pot luck. Those who have the base gift of evangelist please join John at his table. If you have not taken the five-fold survey please go to [fivefoldministry.com](http://fivefoldministry.com) and see how you score

***Wednesday, February 13, 2019*** Caregivers' Support Group 7:00pm at the Walkers'. Contact Susan at [n1placesusan@gmail.com](mailto:n1placesusan@gmail.com)

***Sunday, February 17, 2019*** Worship at 10:00am

~~Sunday, February 17, 2019, 10:00am~~

**Tuesday, February 19, 2019** Vestry Committee at 4:00pm

**Special Congregational Meeting** will be held on February 24th immediately after worship. We will present a proposal from North American Cell Towers to put a cell tower on St. Francis property.

**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](mailto:lcp@libbyclarkphotography.com).

**Centerville Circle of Prayer**

Yu's China Bistro. For good health, stable happy customers, employees who stay a long time

**The Diocese of Virginia**

For the people of Grace, Standardsville; St. Margaret's, Woodbridge; Holy Cross, Batesville; St. Gabriel's, Leesburg; All Souls, Atlee that they would continually walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**The Anglican Communion**

For the people of the dioceses of Luwero (Uganda) The Rt Revd Eridard Kironde Nsubuga (Diocesan Bishop) Tarime (Tanzania) The Rt Revd R Mwita Akiri (Diocesan Bishop) Tasmania (Australia) The Rt Revd Dr Richard Condie (Diocesan Bishop) Tasmania (Australia) The Rt Revd Christopher Jones (Assistant Bishop) that they would continually walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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