

**From:** St. Francis Episcopal Church vicar@stfrancisva.org  
**Subject:** Midnight Judgements  
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St Francis



October 26, 2016

## **Midnight Judgements**

*At midnight I will rise to give you thanks,  
because of your righteous judgements.  
Psalm 119:62*

### ***Intentional***

Psalm 119:62 from Morning Prayer this morning points to two dynamics of prayer. The first one is having a specific and intentional rhythm of prayer. In monastic practice there are seven hours during the day to stop and pray. Midnight is one of them. This goes by various names such as Matins and Lauds or the Night Office. Not many of us will get up at midnight for prayer every night, but there are those who have done so throughout Christian history and who do so now. Having a regular time of prayer puts us into the position to hear from God regularly. The Book of Common Prayer has provision to pray several times a day everyday. What specific, intentional rhythm of prayer does God want you to adopt?

### ***According to Judgements***

The psalm talks of rising at midnight to pray because of the righteous judgements of God. Judgements are not punishments or decisions for or against you. The judgements of God are the signs of his rule, his kingship over us. When a judgement of God comes to you it will be something of the kingdom of God and the love of God meant for you and your life. It may be healing or provision for you. It may also be capacity and power to do what God has been asking you to do. You may sense that in the middle of the night. Whether that is your regular prayer time or not, when you are perceiving God's presence it is a very good time to get up and pray. You will be in the position to receive what God is giving to you at that moment. It is also another time to act in a way that shows He is your Lord. God's reaching out to you may not come at midnight, but then again it may. The idea is to not let it pass but to receive it when it comes to you.

## **Coming Attractions**

***Sunday, October 30, 2016*** Worship at 10:00am

**Wednesday, November 2, 2016** Color Me Friends at St. Francis at 6:30pm. Contact Carol at carolsdream@gmail.com

**Sunday, November 6, 2016** Worship at 10:00am

**Tuesday, November 8, 2016** Morning Prayer at St. Francis at 8:00am offering prayer for our nation on Election Day.

**Wednesday, November 9, 2016**

Vestry Committee 4:00pm

Theology on Tap 6:30pm at Keegan's contact Richard at richardandhedy pat yahoo.com

Caregivers Support Group at Walker's 7:00pm. Contact Susan at n1placesusan@gmail.com

**Please bring nonperishable food to worship** to be distributed through the Food Pantry of the Goochland Free Clinic and Family Services

**The Garden:** Jack Martin is taking over management of The Garden. He and others have planted 8 rows of kale and will need help keeping the weeds down and perhaps watering if we don't have rain. We hope to have at least two harvests this fall and winter. This will give the Food Pantry some fresh produce late in the season. If you are not on The Garden email list and would like to be, contact MJ Weatherford or Jack Martin.

**Centerville Circle of Prayer**

For the Essex Bank Manakin Sabot Branch that the employees would lead solid, healthy lives

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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