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Make Us Channels of Your Peace

St. Francis Episcopal Church

February 11, 2020

Prepare the Way

But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Matthew 6:17+18

Preparation

Usually we talk about preparing the way in Advent. That was a few months ago. It is now the end of the Epiphany season and we are soon moving into Lent. Many of us think about what we want to give up for Lent. That can be profitable, but I want to suggest a different approach. What more do you want of God? Taking up



something that will put you in the position to see ore of God is a way to have a very powerful, rich Lent leading up to Easter. Taking a little time now, two weeks before Ash Wednesday, will help get us into that position. You might find that there is an area of your Christina living that you would like to build up. Generally this could be worship, fellowship, or outreach.

Moving into Lent

I would like to suggest a few items under each of the areas (worship, fellowship, and outreach) for your prayer and consideration.

Worship:

-Each Sunday start leaning into God, praying and praising God, before you leave the house to come to church. You can do this quietly in your own heart, or out loud. Either way will deep affect your worship time on Sunday morning.

- Read one of these books: [You Are What You Love](#) by James K. A. Smith. [The Common Rule](#) by Justin Earley

Fellowship:

- Share with another Christian what God has been getting across to you. Ask that person what God has been getting across to him or her. See if you can do this somehow once/week

- Read: The Household of God by Leslie Newbiggin. The Practicing Congregation by Diana Butler Bass.

Outreach:

-Pray for someone you personally know who is not a Christian that the love of God would fill them to overflowing. Watch to see what happens

-Read: Missional by Alan J. Roxburgh. The Tangible Kingdom by Hugh Halter and Matt Smay

Try just one of these for Lent (one activity or one book). I'd love to hear how it went for you when we get to Holy Week!

Coming Attractions

Sunday, February 16, 2020 - Worship at 10:00am

Sunday, February 23, 2020 - Worship at 10:00am

Ash Wednesday, February 26, 2020 - Worship at 6:15pm

Centerville Circle of Prayer

Goochland Dentistry, Peter Murchie owner, that business would increase

The Diocese of Virginia

For the people of Grace, The Plains; St. George's, Arlington; St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School, Alexandria; 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 Diocese of St Davids (Wales) The Right Revd Joanna Penberthy that they would continually walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Grace and Peace,

John Maher



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