



# ALL ANGELS BY THE SEA WEEKLY TIDINGS

November 9, 2023

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## SUNDAY SERVICES

8:00 and 10:00 am

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To live-stream - go to [AllAngelsLBK.org](https://www.AllAngelsLBK.org), click on the "All Angels Enter Here" picture and you will be routed to our YouTube channel.

Zoom - go to <https://zoom.us/j/5955701807> and watch and listen live. Be sure to stick around after the service for our coffee hour chat-with-your-neighbor time.

The bulletin can be found on the All Angels Website:

[AllAngelsLBK.org](https://www.AllAngelsLBK.org) or at the following link:

[Bulletin for Sunday, November 12](#)

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Scripture Readings for November 12, 2023

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25  
Psalm 78:1-7  
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18  
Matthew 25:1-13

*[Click Here for the Readings](#)*

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The flowers for Sunday, November 12th are given by Dave Wilt and David Bishop in celebration of the birthday that BJ Bishop and Cathie Wilt share on November 14th. They honor their beautiful wives with love and affection, admiration, respect and gratitude for the blessings they bring into their lives.



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## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

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### Last Sunday's Service



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### Sunday Sermons

If you would like to read Rev. Dave's recent sermon

If you would like to read Rev. Dave's recent sermon,  
please click the link below

[Sermon: The River Jordan of Hope 11.5.23](#)

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## PRAYERS

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### **A Prayer for Peace Among the Nations** *(BCP 816)*

Let us pray in this time of conflict for the countries of Russia and the Ukraine,

*Almighty God our heavenly Father, guide the nations of the world into the way of justice and truth, and establish among them that peace which is the fruit of righteousness, that they may become the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.*

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### **Centering Prayer**

Centering Prayer invites you to pray with them, every day, at 8 am, wherever you are. When you enter into prayer at 8 am (Eastern), you will know that others are praying at the same time.

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### **We Pray for our People**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Especially we pray for the needs of Downs IV, Holden, Anne, Victoria, Anne Louise, Kim, Michael, Barbara and Lorraine. For those going through cancer treatments, especially, Margaret, Downs III, Victoria, Alex, Connie, Douglas, Frank, Gerta, Lauren, Heather, Jennifer, TJ, Jim, and Stephanie. Visit and comfort all who are under the care of skilled nursing, especially

Timothy, Barbara, Kim and Lou. Be near to all who are in hospice care especially Jean.

*For the repose of the soul of Georgianna Tiger.  
May light perpetual shine upon her.*

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## A BRIDGE BETWEEN ALEX AND DAVE

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**Podcast: A Bridge Between**

*[Episode 49: Choose Today](#)*

Also available on Spotify:

*[Spotify: A Bridge Between](#)*

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## PARISH ACTIVITIES

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### Toy Drive

All Angels will again be collecting toys for Mothers Helping Mothers this Christmas. There are two ways to give. You can either buy a toy and put it in the box or scan the QR code on the toy box in the gallery. This takes you to the MHM Amazon website. There are several gifts to choose from. Just pay for your selections and they will be sent right to MHM. The last Sunday to bring your gift is December 10.



## Gallery Artist

Our featured artist for November is Liz Cole. Please stop by and enjoy the work of this talented local artist. Checks should be written to All Angels by the Sea.



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## Choir News

- Choir meets every Thursday (October – May) at 10:00 am – ALL are WELCOME!
- Bell Choir meets every Thursday (October – May) at 11:15 am – ALL are WELCOME!

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## Save the Date 2023/2024

Saturday, Dec. 9th:  
Christmas Tea 3:00pm

Concert 4:15pm

Saturday, Jan. 6th, 4:00pm:  
Epiphany Celebration

The month of February  
"New to You" Art Sale Fundraiser

Thursday, Feb. 8th, 4:30pm:  
Art Fundraiser Wine Kick-off party

Sunday, Feb.18th, 11:30am:  
Annual Meeting after church, Sarasota Yacht Club

Thursday, Apr. 11th:  
Spring Fling

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## **Men's and Women's Discussion Groups**

I missed you all this week and our discussions while I was at the diocesan clergy conference.

The reading for this week is about the uncomfortable intersection of church and state that we seem to find ourselves in. The author, a self-identified evangelical Christian conservative, calls into question a statement made by Mike Johnson, the new Speaker of the House, that government policy decisions are based on his worldview from the Bible. Where is the separation of Church and State? Can the Bible inform us on policy decisions? Does faith direct our personal lives but leaves politics and business out of it? Or, is the separation of faith and politics a fallacy?

Those, and many more questions, I'd like to discuss with you. For those in person, I'll have the coffee ready. For those on Zoom, here's the link:

<https://zoom.us/j/5955701807>

[\*Our Broken Christian Politics\*](#)

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## Coffee Hour Hosts Needed

One of the most important things we do is gather after the service for coffee hour. If you are interested in hosting, the sign up sheet is on the Gallery table. If you would like help, sign up and we will find someone to show you how it is done.

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## Online Giving

If you would like to give to the offering plate electronically, you can find the online giving link on our All Angels website by clicking the link below:

[AllAngelsLBK.org](http://AllAngelsLBK.org)

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## REFLECTION

### *The Camel and the Gnat*

Jesus said some very comforting words. Here is my favorite: Do not let your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me, in my

Father's House there are many dwelling places. I go there to prepare a place for you and I will come and get you and bring you there so that where I am you will be also. (John 14:1-3)

How about this one: Come to me, all you who are struggling and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Learn from me. Take my

yoke, it is easy, and my burden is light. (Mt 11:28-30) Or, another favorite: I am the good shepherd; the one who lays down his life for the sheep. (Jn 10:11)



Jesus also said some difficult words that are hard to understand. We heard some of them this past Sunday. In particular, Jesus said, "Call no one your father because you have one Father in Heaven, call no one your teacher

father because you have one Father in Heaven, call no one your teacher because you have one Teacher and you are all students, call no one your instructor because you have one Instructor the Messiah.” (Mt 23:8-10)

I am writing to you about part about not calling your father, father, because you have one in Heaven. This is good news for people who had an absent father, or an abusive or neglectful father. Jesus’ words are comforting because he is reminding us of our One True Father, in Heaven – the one who carries our burdens and lays down his life for us. But what about people like me who had a great dad. Or how about those with good, honest, decent fathers who did the best they could. Or, how about those who are called to be fathers on earth. What does it say to us? I can tell you for me personally, it does not feel like good news.

I have done some extensive research into this topic. It seems as if no theologian, who wants to be published, has taken a stab at it. (Maybe I should take that as a hint) Nevertheless this is what I have discovered. Commandment #5 – honor your father and your mother. Used eight times in the Bible, Jesus certainly knew this commandment. Jesus knew the concept of parents, fathers, and adopted fathers. According to Luke’s Gospel, Jesus was submissive to Joseph and Mary (and then “he grew in wisdom and power”). Lastly, saints Peter, Paul and John referred to the people they wrote to in their letters as “children”. This indicates their respective communities understood them to be parents, or specifically, fathers. Incidentally, “children” was not a subordinate or belittling title; instead it was a term of endearment and intimacy; like a parent with a child.

To make some sense of this, let’s look at the camel and the gnat. Following the call no one your father line, Jesus said that the religious leaders of the day, “Strain out a gnat but swallow a camel.” (23:24) Bugs and flies were common back then (as today in Florida) and they would occasionally land in someone’s wine. Using a cloth, like a coffee filter, they would strain out the bugs so that they could drink it. The gnat or no see



would strain out the bugs so that they could drink it. The gnat, or no-see-um as we call them around here, are tiny; by comparison, camels are huge. In other words, the religious leaders in his day worried about tiny things but let the really big things go by.

Jesus didn't literally mean that they swallow a camel. He was using a rhetorical device with the gnat and the camel. It was an exaggeration to prove a point. This author believes he used the same rhetorical device when talking about fathers (as well as teachers and instructors). In his day, there was a particular quasi-religious attention paid to one's earthly father as well as for teachers and instructors. It's more than saying "they can do no wrong" or "father knows best". It's that they – fathers and teachers – could do horrible things, and be horrible people leading many down the wrong paths. Jesus stood up to that system. He also stood up to the religious leaders of the day that worry about really small things but neglect the much larger matters of religious life which he himself calls justice, peace, and faith. Using the rhetorical device – call no one father – he is inviting us to look to God our Father, God our Teacher and Instructor, who is the Good Shepherd, who will lay down his life for the sheep, who will build you a residence in heaven, who will come and take you to that place, who will take all our anxieties, our fears, our anger, our grief, remorse, and even our sins upon him and will give us a burden that is easy and light. That's the One who we are to look to. God our Father is also the one we try to emulate with those people who call us mother, father, teacher, or instructor. The good news is that when we do our best to emulate our Good Shepherd, we are also honoring our fathers and mothers on earth – both those who were good parents and also those who struggle at it.

- Rev. Dave



Angels  
gather here

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