



ALL ANGELS BY THE SEA WEEKLY TIDINGS

March 14, 2024

SUNDAY SERVICES 8:00 and 10:00 am

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, March 17](#)

Sunday, March 17th, is Jan Webb's last Sunday with us at All Angels before she moves near Jacksonville. It will also be the celebration of

before she moves near Jacksonville. It will also be the celebration of her upcoming 90th birthday. You are invited to attend the special coffee hour that follows and bring a birthday card to give to Jan.

Scripture Readings for March 17, 2024

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalm 51:1-2, 11-13

Hebrews 5:5-10

John 12:20-33

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

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Last Sunday's Service



PRAYERS

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

Let us pray in this time of conflict for peace in Israel, Palestine and Ukraine.

Almighty God our heavenly Father, guide the nations of the world

Allmighty 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.

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.

We Pray for our People

Bring health and hope to all who suffer, especially: Downs IV, Holden, Anne, Victoria, Kim, Michael, Barbara, Lorraine, Maria Christine, Josh & Mary Jo, Caitlin and John. For those recovering from surgery, especially Philip. For those going through cancer treatments and those in remission, especially, Margaret, Downs III, Victoria, Alex, Connie, Douglas, Frank, Gerta, Lauren, Jennifer, TJ, Jim, Stephanie, Cara and Todd. 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.

A BRIDGE BETWEEN ALEX AND DAVE

Podcast: A Bridge Between

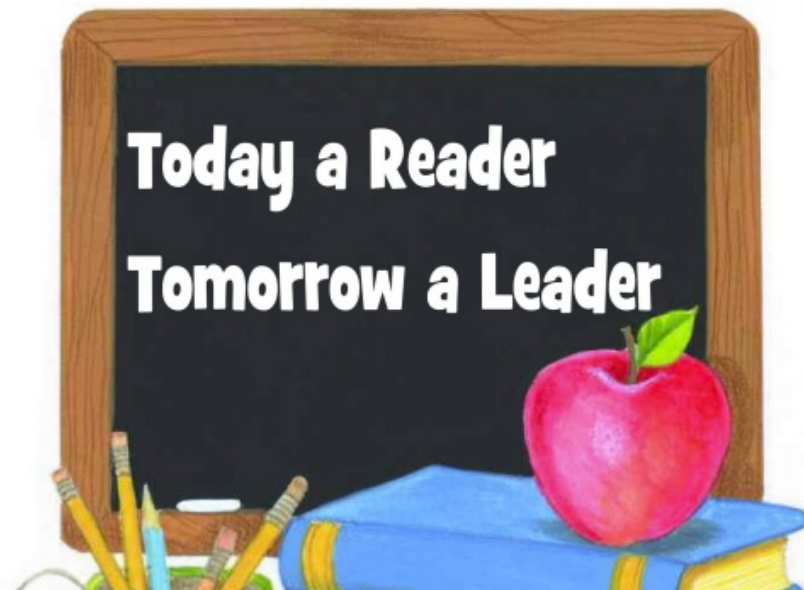
Episode 67: How Do We Serve Jesus?

Also available on Spotify:

Spotify: A Bridge Between

MARCH BOOK DRIVE

BOOK DRIVE





All Angels will be collecting books for the month of March to donate to Children First. Please bring books appropriate for ages 1-5 years.

PARISH ACTIVITIES

All Angels in the News!



Fr. Dave and All Angels are mentioned in the Observer's article about the Community Open House. Read the article at the link included below:

[Article from the Observer](#)

Tour of Turning Points

The New To You Art Sale has been completed. This very successful project has been the result of many



people working together to raise funds to donate to a local charity called Turning Points. It provides free services designed to assist individuals and families on their path to financial stability and independence.



You are invited to mark the occasion when the proceeds of the Art Sale are given to Turning Points during a tour **tomorrow, March 15th at 1:30 p.m.** Turning Points is located at 701 17th Avenue West in Bradenton. Parking is available in front of the building, but it would be best to carpool. We hope that you will be able to join us, no RSVP is needed, to see the good work that is being done there. If you have an All Angels name tag, please wear it.

Easter Offerings

If you would like to make an Easter offering to All Angels in thanksgiving for or in memory of a loved one, please fill out the card found in the Tidings & drop it off in the church office. You may place it in the collection plate, deliver it to the office in person, or email it to Linn at lt@allangelslbc.org.

Please return your cards and donations by Sunday, March 17th.

Easter Offering

Donations for Easter are now being received as Memorials or Thank Offerings.

Please make checks payable to All Angels by the Sea



Memo line: **Easter**



Your name (please print):

Choose one of the following categories (please print names):

In Memory of: _____

In Thanksgiving for: _____

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!

Save the Date

Thursday, April 11th:
Spring Fling

Gallery Artist

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





Men's and Women's Discussion Groups

I was unsure if we could have a meaningful discussion about hell; but, we did. It seems only fair to have a discussion about heaven next. As such, the article attached is about heaven and where (what) it is.

Also attached are the two documents I shared this week - a quote sheet and the Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church description of hell.

Lastly, if you are interested in the book I referenced, the link is below (but don't read it at night).

For next week, and those in person, I'll have the coffee ready. For those on Zoom, here's the link: <https://zoom.us/j/5955701807>

And now, the book:

www.amazon.com/23 Minutes in Hell

To read the articles, click the links below:

[*Heaven Comes to Us*](#)

[*Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church Hell*](#)

[*Discussion Group Quote Sheet: Hell*](#)

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.

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:

REFLECTION

The Opposite of Heaven

King of Horror, American author of supernatural fiction, Stephen King, wrote this: *Alone. It is the most awful word in the English tongue. Murder doesn't hold a candle to it and hell is only a poor synonym.*



Alone.

I have read one of his books – Pet Sematary which scared me so much I have not read another. Feeling alone is the horror of that book; alone in death and in life. In the pet cemetery, reanimated animals were completely opposite from what the beloved pet was like in life. The reanimated pet made their owners feel isolated and alone with no possibility of reunion.

In the second chapter of Genesis, the speaker, presumably God, says, “It is not good for the human to be alone. I will create another. That will help.” The surgeon general has declared that there is a loneliness epidemic in the United States. One researcher has concluded that widespread loneliness poses health risks as deadly as smoking 15 cigarettes daily.

Although there is a distinct difference between being alone and lonely (some can be by themselves and feel happy. Others can be surrounded by people and feel lonely), Stephen King believes that hell is a synonym of alone. Interestingly enough, the Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church agrees. It is written that hell is a complete separation (aloneness) from God

God.
At our discussion groups this past week, we discussed an article from the Wall Street Journal about hell. I was asked two main questions:

Is hell a physical place or a state of mind?

Is hell present now, on earth, or is it experienced after death?

In Anglican theological tradition, I answered with this: yes. Is it physical or a state of mind – yes. Is it present now or after death – yes.

My understanding of hell has been shaped by pastoral relationships with addicts. Whether by drugs or alcohol, the user experiences isolation from family, friends, and, frankly, their own sanity. An alcoholic who gave me permission to share his story said this about hell: *I am not afraid of hell because I lived it. The only thing I fear is slipping back into my addiction which will again separate me from everyone I love.*

I have witnessed addicts turn their life around. There is a lot of good news there. In this sense, their present experience of aloneness/hell can be transformed into connection and sanity.

One of the difficulties of the doctrinal premise of hell is God's mercy, love and grace. How can hell exist since God is all loving and merciful? British writer, literary scholar, and Anglican lay theologian, C.S. Lewis, wrote this about hell:

All that are in Hell, choose it. Without that self-choice there could be no Hell. No soul that seriously and constantly desires joy will ever miss it. Those who seek, find. Those who knock, it is opened.

Using Jesus' words of "ask; knock; seek", the author believes the soul that seeks joy will find it. Lewis also writes that at the entrance to hell there is a bus with an open door. It is headed to heaven. The bus is waiting for anyone who is willing to receive God's grace and love. Hell is a place where people choose not to love and therefore remain separated. They are there not of God's will but of their own.

English poet, civil servant, and author of the 1667 poem Paradise Lost, John Milton, wrote this:

John Milton, wrote this.

The mind is its own place, and in itself can make a heaven of hell, a hell of heaven.

I have met people who can make the sunniest day feel cloudy and gloomy. Conversely, I surround myself with people who can take a gloomy day and make it shine.

In comparison, hell is often described as an isolated dark jail cell; heaven is an open field full of people you love. Hell is alone; Heaven is connection.

We can do things on this earth to separate and make our own jail cell. We can also ask, seek, and find connection with one another, with God and even with our own sanity.

- Rev. Dave



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