

MEDITATIONS FROM AUGUST 2017 SUNDAY BULLETINS

CONSIDER THE RAVENS

August 6, 2017

Rev. Donna Gatewood

If you have a difficult time trying to find God in your life, take a moment to look at nature. In nature we see God in action in every blade of grass, every blooming bush and tree and every babbling brook. We see God in action in the nesting, birthing and migrating of birds, in the rising and setting of the sun, and the ebb and flow of the oceans.

In nature we see four beautiful seasons—springtime when we witness new life all about us; summertime when we find everything in its fullness waiting for autumn so that we can reap and finally winter where everything goes to rest only to come to life again in the spring.

In nature you notice that God has thought of and taken care of everything. There is nothing the birds or other little creatures have to do; there is nothing the flowers, trees, or bushes need to do. Everything is in Divine order and every aspect of life is blessed.

What God does in nature He does for us also. He has given us all that He has and all that He is. We need not worry about the things of this world for didn't Jesus remind us: "Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body; what ye shall put on." (Matthew 6:25)

Seek first the kingdom of God and all God's blessings will be given to you.

SILENCE

August 13, 2017

Rev. Donna Gatewood

In his book, *The Prophet*, Kahlil Gibran reminds us: "You talk when you cease to be at peace with your thoughts; and when you can no longer dwell in the solitude of your heart you live in your lips, and sound is a diversion and a pastime."

How true are these words today in the midst of all the technology that allows us to talk, text, and photograph every moment of the day. We talk and text and we say nothing of consequence. We busy ourselves with nonsense of the busyness of the world and we forget to take time to be quiet and still. We forget Jesus' instruction to enter our closet and shut the door so that we may eliminate for a time the chaos, confusion, worries, fears and dramas of the world for a period of time to commune with our Father.

'Be still and know that I am God' is the secret to letting God into your life. When we take the time to enter the silence we are preparing ourselves to meet with God who lives in each one of us. His presence is our very Life. His Presence is the fullness of our lives; the joy of our lives, the peace and security of our lives. These blessing are ours for the taking; but only when we are open and receptive and willing to take the time to be still, listen and receive.

Take time to be still, be silent, be receptive and listen to the still small voice that guides, heals, protects, strengthens and blesses always.

IT IS YOUR CHOICE

August 20, 2017

Rev. Janet Friedline

Each of us is asked to make choices. We are asked to choose this or that, to make this decision or that determination. And we do the best we can. There are times when we don't feel we have enough information or understanding and we are not comfortable with our ability to choose wisely. We find us consulting others, asking what they would do. Sometimes this is helpful, other times, not so much. But always the final choice is ours. What will we do?

We have been told to "consider the source." This is an important piece of information. When we include the opinion of others in making our decisions, we may be choosing what works for them, but not for us. Truth reveals that God is the source of all things. Would this not include the answer to "what to do?" Our only choice should be to turn within to our soul's awareness. It is there that we admit that we of ourselves can do nothing. And we listen without personal opinion or suggestion. Speak Lord, is the way of wisdom. Let this be our choice.

FULLNESS OF LIFE

August 27, 2017

Rev. Janet Friedline

At some point in time, each of us ponders and contemplates the meaning of life. Is there purpose and reason to expression, or is life a random set of events? There is order in the universe, but what about us? Some of us approach life with the idea that we must fend for ourselves. Others feel there is a source of guidance, something or someone we can turn to for direction and understanding. Our thoughts turn to religion – is there a God who does these things for us?

The Bible speaks to us of God's blessings. "Prove me now saith the lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." The blessings from heaven suggest a fullness of life available to the one who lovingly brings his tithes into the infinite storehouse. Blessed is the one who returns unto the Father what belongs to the Father. Our gifts and talents are to be used in his service. Let us be the wise steward so that we may please God.