

Weekly Word – Rev. Bruce Noseworthy

Oct 15, 2023

The readings for this week are: Exodus 32:1-14, Psalm 23, Philippians 4:1-9, and Matthew 22:1-14

I want to speak a little about the reading from Philippians this week, which says, “4:1 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. 2 I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. 3 Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. 4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. 5 Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. 6 Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. 9 Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

The book of Philippians was written by St. Paul to the church in Philippi around 62 A.D. when Paul was a prisoner in Rome. This was a church that he had planted, even though it was small it meant a great deal to him. Paul is not a stranger to suffering for spreading who Jesus is, yet even though he is in prison he still writes in verse 4, “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice.” Paul knows who is the one who deserves our praise. He is so sure of it, he repeats himself! Yet, from a prison cell he tells the small church plant that, “The Lord is near.” (verse 5), meaning you are not alone, God is always with you, this truth rings true today, we are never alone, God is always with us. We are not to worry about anything and to bring all our needs and requests to God (verse 6). This does not mean we will always get what we think is best, but it does mean God Almighty will do what is best for us. We are in the palm of His hand and the apple of His eye, He cares for our every need, want, and desire and has our best interest in mind when He hears us pray to Him. He will ALWAYS be there and is continually wanting a deeper relationship with us. This is accomplished through us spending time with Him through prayer. He longs for that quiet time with you. Won't you carve time out of your busyness to spend with the God who Loved you enough to create you?