

**Good Morning PGCC!**

**March 18, 2020**

**A little guy humor for your morning.**

Day 4 without sports: I found a lady sitting on my couch. Apparently, she's my wife. She seems nice.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There have been over 300 views of our Sunday service with some great reviews. [Click HERE](#) to see it. We also have DVDs available of the service at the church office.

If you know someone who is not receiving these emails, please have them contact Karen Anderson at [keapgccc@gmail.com](mailto:keapgccc@gmail.com) to be added to our email list. If you know someone who does not have a computer, please give them a call to keep them up to date.

Until further notice, we will NOT be meeting for Sunday services. We will definitely not be meeting the next two Sundays. We will be creating videos of the services, just as we did last week.

This means the Annual Meeting will not be happening on the 29<sup>th</sup>. We will give information on how we will handle the Annual. Meeting once we know more.

To keep you updated, we are adding a page to our website. The page will have copies of all our Good Morning emails, Links to our videos, and other news and announcements. You can access this information from our home page at [www.pgcc.church](http://www.pgcc.church).

## **A LENTEN DEVOTIONAL**

By Alice Anderson

Since we have had to cancel our noontime Wednesday Lenten Services we will send you the service every Wednesday in this Good Morning email.

Our passage today is from Psalm 51:1-4.

Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your unfailing love;  
according to your great compassion  
blot out my transgressions.

<sup>2</sup>Wash away all my iniquity  
and cleanse me from my sin.

<sup>3</sup>For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is always before me.

<sup>4</sup>Against you, you only, have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight;  
so you are right in your verdict  
and justified when you judge.

David wrote this Psalm when Nathan the prophet had come to him, regarding his sin with Bathsheba and Uriah. In case you are not familiar with the story, I'd like to give you a little background as to what went on before David wrote this famous passage.

Instead of leading his troops into battle, David had stayed behind and sent the soldiers on. So, he just happened to be there to see Bathsheba bathing on her rooftop. David called for Bathsheba and slept with her. Bathsheba got pregnant, and David tried to cover it up.

David sent for her husband, Uriah, who was on the battlefield, and tried to get him to sleep with his own wife so that he would think he was the father. Uriah, however, was a loyal and dedicated soldier. He refused to sleep with his wife while his fellow soldiers were still on the battlefield.

So, when Uriah went back to war, David sent a note to the army commander with instructions to have Uriah put at the frontline and to withdraw so that he would be killed.

This man, Uriah, who a short time before, had been serving David faithfully, died.

David's plan was "*a success.*" He was now free to take Bathsheba as his wife. Although perhaps few people knew exactly what had transpired, God knew, and the Lord revealed it to the Prophet Nathan. Nathan, then, told David this story.

2 Samuel 12:1-4 New International Version (NIV)

The LORD sent Nathan to David. When he came to him, he said, "There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor. The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him.

"Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him."

When Nathan told David the story, David was livid. How could anyone do such a thing? This poor man deserved justice. And David was the one to make sure he got it.

But wait! Nathan went on to explain that this was David. David was guilty before God and the nation.

This is what led David to write Psalm 51. Take a moment to read it again.

Throughout this passage I see a huge contrast between God's character, on the one hand, and David's character and ours on the other.

I picked out the words that refer to God: mercy, unfailing love, great compassion, right in His verdict, justified when He Judges.

David's character, on the other hand is one of transgressions, iniquity, sin, and evil.

God is Holy, yet, full of mercy.

We, like David, are sinners and in need of His mercy.

As I was preparing for this devotional, I was asking God to give me the words. He not only gave me the words, but he gave me this embarrassing illustration.

A couple of weeks ago, I went out shopping at one of my favorite discount stores. Our daughter is getting married in April and I still needed to coordinate what I was going to wear. So, as I was looking around, I got distracted with all of the lovely Easter decorations that were out. My eye caught a glimpse of a beautiful spring silk flower arrangement that I could hang on the front door. I picked out the best looking one and headed for the cashier.

Then I thought about last year's decoration, which still looked pretty good, and decided that I didn't need a new one after all. When I went to put it back, very gently, the bouquet hanging in the back, suddenly flipped out and there was a loud crash! The bouquet in the back, which I hadn't even touched, knocked off a pot of silk flowers below it. Don't ask me what happened, but there wasn't anyone else around except for me.

I could see the manager from where I was but he looked and turned away. There was a gentleman going out the door and he just kept walking, but a nice young lady behind me came up and said, "I'll help you pick that up." I thanked her and we scooped up the biggest pieces and swiped the little pieces out of

the aisle. Then we walked toward the counter with the broken pot of flowers. I offered to pay for the broken pot of flowers, but the manager said, “No problem. These things happen.” I suddenly felt his mercy. I had caused the pot to break, and should have had to pay for it, but he showed me mercy and let me off.

If the manager can show me that much mercy, how much greater mercy has our God, shown us when Christ came down to earth to die on the cross to pay the price for our sin.

Maybe we are not like David who committed adultery and then murder, maybe we are like him. Each one of us has our own sins, but God is full of mercy and compassion and is ready to forgive us.

We must acknowledge our sin and receive God’s mercy and forgiveness.

Let’s seek Him this day. Let’s surrender our own situation and sin to Him. Let’s dig into His Word and get to know Him better. We can trust God’s promises, including those in Isaiah 55:6-7: ***“Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.”***

**God’s mercy is what Easter is all about.**

## **REFLECTION**

- Read all these instructions first
- Click on the following link and then play the video of Wylie playing the hymn “It is Well.” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zYJYi5EnC1o>

- With Wylie playing in the background
  - Spend two minutes reflecting on your own character. What are the strengths and what are the weaknesses?
  - Spend the next two minutes reflecting on God's character. What parts of God's character do you need to experience? What parts of God's character do you want to become part of your character?
  
- When the music stops, spend some time in prayer.
  - Confess any character weaknesses.
  - Accept God's forgiveness.
  - Request God to transform your character in ways you have identified.