



## The Episcopal Church of the Advent

July 29, 2025 Newsletter

Seventh Sunday After Pentecost



### **Gospel Reflection: Luke 11:1-13 – Living a Life of Prayer**

On Sunday, July 26th, Father Lockett welcomed us with a heartfelt question: “Has God been good to you since we were last together?” His sermon on Luke 11:1-13 unpacked the power of prayer, guiding us to weave it into our daily lives, just as Jesus taught His disciples.

When a disciple asked, “Lord, teach us to pray,” Jesus shared the Lord’s Prayer (verses 2-4), a cornerstone of Episcopal worship. Father Lockett noted that the disciples longed to pray like Jesus, and He gave them a simple yet profound model: honor God’s holiness (“Father, hallowed be your name”), seek daily provision (“give us each day our daily bread”), ask for forgiveness while forgiving others, and pray for protection from temptation. This prayer invites us into an intimate, trusting relationship with God, aligning our hearts with His kingdom.

Jesus then shared the parable of the friend at midnight (verses 5-8), where a man’s persistent knocking secures bread for a guest—not just out of friendship but bold determination. This teaches us to pray with unwavering trust. Jesus reinforces this with “ask, seek, knock” (verses 9-10), urging bold, expectant prayer. He concludes by comparing God’s generosity to a parent’s love (verses 11-13): if human parents give good gifts, how much more will our Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask?

Father Lockett connected this to the story of Mary and Martha, noting Mary's prayerful focus versus Martha's distractions. He summarized prayer's essence: "Lord, thank You; Lord, help me; Lord, protect me." To deepen our prayer life, he encouraged us to be still, open our hearts, and listen for God's "small, still voice," like Mary sitting at Jesus' feet, and then offered four steps to include in our prayer:

- Adoration: Praise God's greatness, humbly adoring Him as our Creator.
- Confession: Admit our shortcomings, seek forgiveness, and forgive others, trusting God's mercy.
- Thanksgiving: Thank God for His goodness and blessings in our lives.
- Supplication: Pray for the sick, the grieving, and all in need, or those who are seeking God's care.

**For Reflection:**

- **A Prayerful Framework:** The Lord's Prayer guides our daily dependence on God, central to our Episcopal faith.
- **Persistent Faith:** Like the friend at midnight, we're called to pray boldly, trusting God's timing.
- **God's Gift:** Prayer opens us to the Holy Spirit, transforming us to live out God's love.

Let's embrace Father Lockett's call to "be like Mary"—still, attentive, and prayerful—trusting that God delights in filling us with His Spirit.

***Question for the Week: In what ways could you include the four elements of prayer that include adoration, confession, giving thanks, and lifting others up, as a way to improve your prayer life?***

Yours in Christ,  
Kim

**Update on Livy Scholly**

Please continue praying for Livy Scholly and her family. According to the Palliative Care PA at Piedmont Athens, who has been overseeing her care, Livy likely has weeks rather than months left with us. Although she experienced a brief period of improvement, her health has since declined—a progression the care team says is not uncommon at this stage of life. Currently, she is not taking in enough nourishment to sustain her long-term. Livy does not appear to be in pain or discomfort at this time, so hospice has not yet been called. We will continue to keep you updated, especially if she can move to a location closer to home. Thank you for your continued prayers and support for Livy.

**Priest recruitment**

The selection process for our new priest is progressing well. The vestry has now conducted in-person meetings with two candidates in a lively, informal dinner at the home of Bob and Mary McCauley, and will meet with the remaining candidate this Thursday. The consensus is that any of the three would be a good fit for our church. The Vestry expects to make a choice soon. Once the candidate accepts, a short process begins, culminating in the Bishop's approval. The announcement of the new Advent Priest-In-Charge will happen at that time. We hope the process will not take more than a few weeks to complete, followed by a welcoming celebration for our new priest!

**Rota for the Eighth Sunday after Pentecost  
August 3, 2025**

LEM: 8:00 A.M. Booker / 10:30 A.M. Booker  
Altar Guild: McCauley-Burriss-Harrell  
Flower Guild:  
1st Reading: Hilsman

2nd Reading: Jackson-Lewis  
Vestry of the Day: Jackson-Lewis  
Organ Tech: M. Dartnell

**Readings for the Eighth Sunday after Pentecost  
August 3, 2025**

[Link to Readings](#)

First Reading: Hosea 11:1-11  
The Psalm: Psalm 107:1-9, 43  
Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-11  
The Gospel: Luke 12:13-21

**Parish Prayer List**

Dann Brown, Flossie Dodge, Jeanne Dufort, Kate Jackson, Kathy Lehman, Brian Lehman, Dutton Moore, Jennie Newton, Annette Piazza, Lynne Roach, Dick Schmidt, Livy Scholly, Betty Thomas, Lynn Cupples, Bob Cupples, Mary Ann Edelman, Anita Hunt, Julie Hancock Jones, Jan Kozel, Jerry Maddoz, Dennis Reeder, Beth Tamplin Jones, Bill Kurtz, Susan Kurtz.

**August Birthdays:** **3** Elizabeth Crotts, Elizabeth Adkins, **4** Kate Branch, **5** Becky Adkins, **8** Kate Roberts, **12** Betsy Quillin, **14** Kathie Schmidt, **18** Avery Jackson, Malin Dartnell, Gail Thompson, **24** Reese Freyer, IV, **26** Jamie Crotts

**Anniversaries:** **2** Maryann and Devon Dartnell, **3** Emily and David Buck

**Recurring weekly calendar**

Rite I Eucharist: Sunday, 8:00 AM  
Sunday school (adult): Sunday, 9:15 AM  
Rite II Eucharist: Sunday, 10:30 AM  
Morning Prayer service: Wednesday, 9:00 AM  
Off the Rails AA group: M, Tu, Th @ noon  
Madison AA group: Th, Su @7:30 PM, F @ 7:00 PM

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