



You're A Candle: Let Your Light Shine ~ Salt and Light in the World **(Matthew 5:13-16)**

Devotional: 20 - 26 February 2022

Following the beatitudes in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus tells his followers that people who receive these blessings matter: You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:13-16)

If you are a follower of Jesus living the beatitudes, you matter. You have an important role to play because you are the salt of the earth. Salt preserves and Christians help preserve what is good in the culture. In the ancient world, salt was very valuable: the Greeks thought it contained something almost divine, and the Romans sometimes paid their soldiers with salt. A soldier who didn't carry out his duties "was not worth his salt." You are a seasoning agent. In a sense, you can bring the distinctive flavor of God's values to all of life. You can make life palatable.

Note that salt, to be effective, must be in contact with the meat or fish it is to preserve. To be effective, we must be involved with society and where we live. Living according to the beatitudes may make us more successful. But we need to be prepared for the times it doesn't. What will we do if showing mercy, making peace, or working for justice jeopardizes our relationships with non-believers or the secular society? Withdrawing from the world is no answer for Christians. But it is difficult to live in the world, ready to challenge its ways at any time. In Matthew 5:10-12, Jesus acknowledged the reality of persecution. But in our contacts with the community that we serve, we must retain our "saltiness," our distinctiveness. It's a balancing act we're called upon to maintain.

"You are the light of the world." The job description of a Christian is not only to maintain personal holiness, but also to touch the lives of everyone around us. In our everyday walk in life, we touch many people who do not encounter Christ in church. It may be our most effective place to witness to Christ. But we have to be careful about how we witness for Christ.

How can we be salt and light to the secular world? Jesus said our light is not necessarily in the witness of our words, but in the witness of our deeds—our "good works." "Let your light so shine before humanity that people may see your good deeds and glorify your father who is in heaven." The beatitudes have spelled out some of those good works. In humility and submission to God, we work for right relations, for merciful actions, and for peace. When we live as people of blessing, we are salt and light—in society, in our homes, and in our nation. Amen.

With God as our Leader, may we be prepared to live another year under His guidance.

How can we pray for you today?

- Ms. Betsy Winquist: I am one of those called by You into old age, a call not given to all; not given to Jesus, not given to most in our world today. As I face challenges, may the eyes of my faith strengthen and may I see You and Your love in everything. Cards of love and encouragement can be mailed to Ms. Betsy Winquist, 3009 Shamrock Drive, Greensboro, NC 27408.
- I humbly ask You, grace me deeply in each aspect of the struggle. Prayers of condolences are extended to Mr. Anthony (Tony) and Ms. Michelle Harrington on the passing of his uncle, Mr. Leonard Ritchie, his mom, Ms. Beverly (Mr. Clay) Harrington, youngest brother. Cards of support and condolences can be mailed to: Mr. Anthony and Ms. Michelle Harrington, 612A Main Street, Box 624, Kewaskum, WI 53040 and Mr. Clay and Ms. Beverly Harrington, 612A Main Street, Box 624, Kewaskum, WI 53040.
- Prayers of healing and comfort are warmly and lovingly extended to Ms. Bev Vogel who broke her left wrist. Living Lord, your love has held Ms. Bev and kept her through this pain and suffering. Now may your hope and healing lead her quickly to a place of restoration. And we love Ms. Bev so much more!

Correspondence can be mailed to: Ms. Bev Vogel, 125 Cedar Ridge Drive, #S143, West Bend, WI 53095.

- Mr. Robert and Ms. Nancy Whitson, request your prayers of healing and restoration as both of are in cardiac rehabilitation. Please send your cards and notes to: Mr. Robert and Ms. Nancy Whitson, 922 Hickory Street, West Bend, WI 53095.
- Mr. William (Bill) & Mrs. Ginger Hornung would love to hear from you! Cards or notes of encouragement or “just thinking of you” can be mailed to: W194N16744 Eagle Dr. Room 3, Jackson, WI 53037
- Mrs. Janice Liepert-Kempf, continued prayers for healing and strength as she continues to struggle with illness. You can send emails of prayers and support to: alankempf33@gmail.com; or cards and notes to Ms. Janice Liepert-Kempf, 414B. South Pleasantview Road, Plymouth, WI 53073; phone number: 920.838.1830.
- We extend our deepest and loving condolences to Mr. Eric (Ms. Jennifer) Peters on the passing of his mother, Ms. Bette Peters, on 18 January 2022. Celebration of Life Service will be held in the spring. Cards of condolences and love can be mailed to: Mr. Eric and Jennifer Peters, 1519 Green Tree Road, West Bend, WI 53090.
- Ms. Annie Griffin, Aunt of Pastor Clarissa (Bro. Martin), had her left leg amputated at the knee on 18 January 2022. Your prayers of hope and support has been a blessed comfort. Cards and notes for promises of healing, restoration and encouragement and can be mailed to: Ms. Annie Griffin, 1122 Hutchinson Ferry Road, Bainbridge, GA 39819
- Fifth Avenue UMC's Laity, Accountable Leadership Board ALB). To God be the glory, great things He has done! We have entered into a period of prayer and discernment as a person has stepped forward for the ALB Chair position. Join us as we pray for this servant-leader. Lord in your mercy, please hear our prayer.
- Praise God! Mr. Ted Meilahn, has returned home. The blessings continue as his brother has moved from Illinois to Wisconsin to care for him. It is truly wonderful when relatives live together in peace. (Psalm 133:1) Please send cards or notes of joy and encouragement to: Mr. Ted Meilahn, 1085 Fond du Lac Avenue, Box 23, Kewaskum, WI 53040. He would also appreciate a phone call: 262-626-2535.
- Our Lay Leader, Mr. Dale Zarling, is continuing to recover from spinal surgery. Please continue to keep Mr. Dale and Ms. Rita in your thoughts and prayers. Cards of support and healing can be mailed to: Mr. Dale and Ms. Rita Zarling, 5464 Moraine Drive, E., West Bend, WI 53095.
- Ms. Linda Green, sister of Ms. Debra Matthies, needs our prayers for strength and courage as her cancer has returned. Cards and notes to let Ms. Linda know we are present in this journey can be mailed to: Ms. Linda Green, c/o Ms. Debra Matthies, 1466 North 12th Avenue, West Bend, WI 53090.
- Bro. Bob Krell, prayers for strength and healing. Please mail cards and notes of prayer and encouragement to: Bro. Bob Krell, 804 Lenora Drive, West Bend, WI 53090
- Mr. Len McGinnis, Jr., cards and notes of support, cheer and well wishes for Mr. Len and Ms. Shelia McGinnis can be mailed to: 1230 Vogt Drive, West Bend, WI 53095
- Ms. Trisha Funke, daughter of Mr. Ralph & Ms. Bonnie Hensel. Cards of encouragement and prayers for continued healing and diagnosis can be sent to her parents: Mr. Ralph & Ms. Bonnie Hensel, 629 Highland View Drive, West Bend WI 53095
- Mr. Roger Sacia, is requesting prayers for healing; Mrs. Nobi Sacia words of encouragement and prayers for healing. Mr. Roger and Ms. Nobi have permanently relocated to Madison with their daughter. Their new address is: 1626 Jefferson Street, Madison WI 53711
- Mr. Phil Heimerl, son-in-law of Mike & Fay Lewis. He was just diagnosed with ALS.

Let us pray: **Dear Lord, you declare us to be both salt and light. Use us today that we not waste the opportunities that come our way to make life better for others. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

Your humble Pastor & Servant Leaders, *Pastor Clarissa & Bro. Martin*