

Spring Cleaning

The Christian celebration of Lent is a time for reflection and repentance. Annette Poitier who lives in Nassau, Bahamas, writes :

IN our family of islands, some people have a peculiar way of spring cleaning their houses. First, everything is taken out of the house and placed outside. Then the house is washed and scrubbed, and so are the contents. When the house is clean, the owners put back in only those things that are cherished. Some items are discarded because they have become old or broken. Others have become redundant. Some items are offered to families or charities who may find better use for them.

This practice offers a model for our self-examination. As we bring everything about ourselves into the light of God's love, asking for cleansing, God will help us to see what we should keep and what we need to let go of.

PRAYER: Help us, O God, to place all of our deeds in your light. We know that when we reflect your light, we become channels of love and peace for others. Cleanse us continually as we travel on the journey of life.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: Our spiritual house needs spring cleaning.

Psalm 139:1 O LORD, you have examined my heart and know everything about me. You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my every thought when far away.

You chart the path ahead of me and tell me where to stop and rest. Every moment you know where I am. You know what I am going to say even before I say it, LORD. You both precede and follow me. You place your hand of blessing on my head.

You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.

How precious are your thoughts about me, O God! They are innumerable! I can't even count them; they outnumber the grains of sand! And when I wake up in the morning, you are still with me!

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life. (*adapted from "The Upper Room"*)



Pack 71

Duty to God

Winter Camp 1998

Pack 71 Macungie, PA Chaplain : Jeff Bauer
 Winter Camp - March 13,14,15 1998
 Third Sunday in Lent

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Chaplain : Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters.
 You who have no money, come, buy, and eat!

**All : Our souls thirst for God in a dry and weary land.
 We seek God's power and glory in the sanctuary.**

Chaplain : Listen carefully to God and eat what is good;
 delight yourselves in the rich food God provides.

**All : Here our souls are satisfied as with a rich feast.
 Together our mouths praise God with joyful tips.**

Chaplain : God offers us steadfast love and a covenant relationship.
 We are called to be faithful witness and leaders.

**All : We have come to meditate on the living God.
 We seek inspiration and empowerment to do what God asks.**

*** INVOCATION**

Let us Pray :
We come before you, gracious God, seeking what money cannot buy. Only you can provide nourishment for our souls. There is no other source of meaning in our mixed-up world. We can find no fountain of strength or sustenance apart from you. Surely you can be found where two or three are gathered together. As a community of faith, we call on you, believing that you are nearer than our next breath, more available to us than we may worship on wings of joy. Amen

HYMN : For The Beauty Of The Earth

For the beauty of the earth,
For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies;
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful Praise

For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
Sun and moon, and stars of light;
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful Praise. Amen

*** COLLECT :**

Eternal God, whose call comes to us through the scriptures, in the remembrance of our baptism and in our shared life in the church, feed us now with your word, that we may bear fruit. Confront us with your truth and keep us from being tempted beyond our strength, for we seek to be faithful in our covenant with you and responsible in our relationships with one another. May we together witness to your steadfast love in ways that transform evil into good. Amen

SCRIPTURE READING : Isaiah 55:1-9
 Psalm 63:1-8

EVENING MESSAGE - "What's Inside"

CHAPLAIN'S PRAYER (then OUR LORD'S PRAYER (*Debts/Debtor's*))

Scout Vespers
Tune - Tannenbaum

Softly falls the light of day,
While our campfires fade away,
Silently each Scout should ask;
Have I done my daily task?
Have I kept my honor bright?
Can I guiltless sleep tonight?
Have I done and have I dared
Everything to be prepared.

*** COMMISSION AND BLESSING :**

Chaplain : God sends us out as witnesses to good news.
 May our lips praise God as long as we live.

**All : God's steadfast love is better than life;
 God's mercy and pardon break through life's clouds.**

Chaplain : Call on God in the midst of each day's tasks;
 meditate on God's presence through the night.

**All : God is our help in all times and places;
 we will call on God's name wherever we are.**

Chaplain : God will grant us strength to resist temptation
 and vision to labor for what truly satisfies.

**All : Praise God, whose waters quench our thirst.
 Thank God for the bread of life that feeds our souls.
 Amen, Amen**