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St. Bartholomew’s Episcopal Church

Post Office Box 906

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Fourth Sunday in Lent 2020

March 22, 2020

***Grace, peace, and the love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ be with you.***

 Today’s Gospel reading is John 9:1-41. Please take a moment to read this before going further into this brief homily. The human race is currently under attack from the pandemic COVD-19. We are told to avoid close physical contact with others, businesses are closed, food stores are running out of necessities, and fear is the word of the day. Medical science has been on this problem since January and there does not appear to be a cure in the foreseeable future. There are insufficient hospital resources to treat the sick. Churches are closed. How long will this last? There are no answers. Some say nothing will get better until July. Tax filing has been moved from April 15 to July 15. Now there is statement! The best we can do to help ourselves is to stay at home and wash our hands frequently while singing happy birthday twice. I have a better solution.

 COVD-19 has brought out some blessings to the human race. Countries that were almost enemies are now talking and working together to help the sick. The United States government under the leadership of our President has taken great steps to help the people by providing resources to alleviate the economic struggle and mobilizing the military and medical communities to assist the people at no cost. The congressional division between the two parties has reduced significantly as all work together. Although there remain a few sensationalist news media that are capitalizing on the pandemic there seems to be less and less inaccurate reports and a return to honest unbiased journalism. People of faith are showing their best as they help their local communities and the world. Here at St. Bartholomew’s we have our team that makes deliveries to our families that can’t get out. I am convinced that as a church we are getting stronger in spite of the burden on our small church resources. Yes, stronger because our Lord will not abandon the faithful. So, I am personally excited to see what great things the Lord will be bringing our small historic church in High Springs. A great celebration lies ahead!

 Patience, calmness, grace, and love are the cure. No pointing fingers or hurting others to benefit our self-interests. In today’s Gospel please note that our Lord shows no interest in what sins or who sinned questions. He is not interested in the cause of the suffering but rather what is going to be done about it. What are we going to do? What was Jesus’ purpose in today’s reading? I believe he was trying to bring the lost back to faith. It is a great opportunity to bring the lost, the spiritually blind, back to healthy spiritual lives providing faith, hope, and security found only in God. The faithful have nothing to fear for the Lord promises nothing will separate us from the eternal life we will enjoy with him. When I wash my hands throughout the day I pray or sing the Lord’s Prayer to remind me that it is Jesus that makes me clean and is my sure defense against all danger. He is your also!

 Strengthen your trust in the Lord. My love and prayers go out to all the St. Bartholomew family. The Lord is with us. Much love, fr lance+