



July 2020

Dear Beloved of God,

I give thanks to God for your deep faith in God's steadfast love and compassion. I am so grateful we worship a God who cares about us intimately even keeping count of the number of hair on our heads.

Jesus came taking on human form to be the bridge for us back to God. His very heart was a compassionate one caring for the ones the world cast aside. What a grace and mercy this is! He knows our trials and sufferings and means to transform them with His love.

This month, we will be focusing in on what it means to be compassionate. I hope you will take time to not only review some of these concepts but to dare to take the weekly challenge for compassionate action and daily prayers. I believe it will help us all to move toward joy, self-love, and love of our neighbor.

Consider what scripture reminds you of God's compassion and a story of how you have demonstrated compassion or seen it modeled by another.

Remember, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Matthew 18:3.

Living from a heart of compassion is our unique gift to the world. It is needed now more than ever. It is the way of love. Shine bright my beloved in small and gentle ways — for the Glory of God!

In Hope and Faith,

Pastor Robin +

Pastor Robin +

Welcome to Compassion Camp Parish-wide

Compassion Camp—Not just for our youth but everyone!

BE LOVED.
BE KIND.
BE YOU.

Catch Compassion Fever!

- By listening to Sunday's Compassion Sermons
- Stories of Compassion at Noonday Prayers M-F on Facebook
- Praying the prayers or watching the videos that will be shared on our Enewsletter
- Color the Compassion coloring pages as an act of prayer and share photos with us
- Share your favorite verse and story of Compassion with us at hope@stgeorgestc.org
- Dare to take the Compassionate action challenge each week/sharing Compassion
- Simply pray the prayer each week
- Write a note of encouragement to a young person you know

Compassion Camp – Format for Each Week

Do what brings you joy at your pace. (5 Weeks)

Weekly Theme: Each week, we will explore themes of compassion with each session's scripture.



Sunday Sermon: We will start off Compassion Camp each week with our Sunday Service! The sermon, from Pastor Robin and/or the Deacons, will be geared towards Compassion. You will be able to watch it on Facebook, YouTube, or on our Website. (*Zoom will only be live on Sundays at 9:30 a.m.*) In your packet, you will find the Songs of Compassion that will be played during the service. You can also find more on Beth's music on her website songsofhopeandhealing.org.

Weekly Prayer: As we prepare to learn more about compassion, we will start the week with a compassion prayer. Place one hand on your head and one hand on your heart. We are doing this because compassion happens in our brains, but we often feel it in our hearts. In addition to these weekly prayers, we will have Noonday Prayer (M-F) geared towards Compassion. Make sure to see it on Facebook at noon or on our website later in the day!

Coloring Your Prayers: In your packet, you will receive a coloring sheet! Take some time to color and reflect on the prayer.

Imagine: With imagining and wondering questions, you will be able to connect more deeply with the bible story.

Going Deeper into Compassion: There will be additional resources for you to dig deeper into Compassion.

Daily Examen and Reflections: This offers an opportunity to talk together about the day's experiences and lessons. Use these sections when you're sitting at the table for a meal or at bedtime. Take a few minutes to pause and share about your day. Begin by saying the opening line and the prayer. Then use the questions as a guide to reflect on the day. Taking time to remember what you felt and learned during the day helps deepen our compassion.



Week One – July 5th: Compassion helps us see and welcome.

To see and welcome is how we accept one another. When we gather together at the table, we accept each other in the same way God accepts us.

Through the parable of the father and the two brothers in Luke 15:11-32, we will witness how compassion empowers us to release any anger and judgment we may hold toward others, ourselves, and the world for not being what we wanted or needed.

Sunday Sermon: Watch on Facebook, YouTube, or on the Website.

Weekly Prayer: Welcoming One, Your warm, wide arms are always open, drawing us into your heart full of love. Make our arms your own, helping us see and welcome with compassion all those we meet. *Amen.*

Coloring Your Prayers: “Welcoming One” can be found in the last packet.

Imagine: Who sits with you at your dinner table? What do you talk about? How do you welcome each other when someone’s had a hard day or doesn’t want to sit at the table?

Going Deeper into Compassion:

Listen to “The Cultivating Compassion Podcast” (4 episodes).

<https://www.rosslynfoundation.org/podcast>

- Why is this called “Cultivating Compassion?”
- What is RLCF doing in Louisiana that’s unique?
- How could this be mimicked in your own community?

Daily Examen:

Open: God is good, all the time! All the time, God is good!

Pray: God of welcome, You help us see your love and acceptance.
Help us love and accept others in your name. *Amen.*

Reflections: What surprised you today? What disappointed you today? When did you share kindness today? When did you not share kindness today? And what are you most thankful for today?



Week Two – July 12th: Compassion helps us be brave.

To be brave is letting God help us see and reach out to our neighbor. When we reach out to our neighbor, we experience the miracle of God's power to restore and make our community whole.

Through the gospel story of friends bringing their friend on a mat to Jesus, we will witness how compassion often requires risk. We will learn the ways compassion calls for focus - we keep our eyes on Jesus, even as others might misunderstand or judge our actions.

Sunday Sermon: Watch on Facebook, YouTube, or on the Website.

Weekly Prayer: Dear Jesus, Your compassion always looked like courage. Strengthen our hearts with your bravery as we risk, reach out, and lift up our siblings near and far. Help us keep our eyes on you. *Amen.*

Coloring Your Prayers: "Dear Jesus" can be found in your packet.

Imagine: What do you think it means to be brave? What does it feel like?

Going Deeper into Compassion:

Listen to this podcast of OnBeing.

<https://onbeing.org/programs/living-the-questions-when-no-question-seems-big-enough/>

- “Can anyone use the word we?”
- Reflect on what it means to be a part of “we” and “us.”

Daily Examen:

Open: God is good, all the time! All the time, God is good!

Pray: God of courage, You help us be brave, to trust and follow you. Make us instruments of your help and healing. *Amen.*

Reflections: What surprised you today? What disappointed you today? When did you share kindness today? When did you not share kindness today? And what are you most thankful for today?



Week Three – July 19th: Compassion helps us love ourselves.

It means showing gentleness and kindness to ourselves in heart, soul, mind, and strength. When we pay attention to and honor our own selves, we experience how God sees and loves us.

Through Jesus' teaching of an ancient Hebrew commandment, we will experience self-love as an essential form of compassion.

Sunday Sermon: Watch on Facebook, YouTube, or on the Website.

Weekly Prayer: Gentle One, Thank you for your Spirit within us who guides, encourages, and strengthens us. Help us see ourselves through your eyes - with love, kindness, and deep joy. May we love our bodies, treasure our hearts, and celebrate our spirits. *Amen.*

Coloring Your Prayers: "Gentle One" can be found in your packet.

Imagine: What does it mean to love ourselves? Why is this important? How does having love for ourselves help us love others? To love God? What are some ways you can love yourself?

Going Deeper into Compassion:

Watch the Ted Talk "Dare to rewire your brain for self- compassion" by Weiyang Xie. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eiEMVA8AIJw>

- Keep a journal for just one day and write down all the negative thoughts you have about yourself.
- Ask yourself - am I sure these things are true? Am I saying them out of habit? How could I change each thought from a negative to a positive?

Daily Examen:

Open: God is good, all the time! All the time, God is good!

Pray: God of love, You care for us and you are good to us. Help us to know and love ourselves. *Amen.*

Reflections: What surprised you today? What disappointed you today? When did you share kindness today? When did you not share kindness today? And what are you most thankful for today?



Week Four – July 26th: Compassion helps us be present with each other.

When we follow God's Spirit - which is always on the move - and are open to the people we encounter along the way, they can experience God's Spirit through our care.

Through the testimony of Ruth, Orpah, and Naomi, we will witness how compassion involves deep trust, an open mind, and a soft heart. We will learn that being present with each other asks us to let go of our expectations, be flexible, and trust the Spirit, as we seek to lead compassionate lives.

Sunday Sermon: Watch on Facebook, YouTube, or on the Website.

Weekly Prayer: Loving Spirit, You are active and alive, always moving and stirring within and around us! Please be an encouraging wind at our backs, giving us open minds and soft hearts to follow where you lead. Make us flexible and present in each moment that we might embrace compassion by letting go of what we expected. *Amen.*

Coloring Your Prayers: "Loving Spirit" can be found in your packet.

Imagine: How does compassion help us be present? What do you think it means to be with people in their hurt? How can you be with someone while they are hurting? How can you let someone be with you when you hurt?

Going Deeper into Compassion:

Check out the website: projecthopeexchange.com

- Make a poster to put in the window of your house facing the street.
- Draw your message outside in sidewalk chalk to share with the world.

Daily Examen:

Open: God is good, all the time! All the time, God is good!

Pray: God-With-Us, You lead us on life's path. Move our hearts so we can be there for others along the way. *Amen.*

Reflections: What surprised you today? What disappointed you today? When did you share kindness today? When did you not share kindness today? And what are you most thankful for today?



Week Five – August 2nd: Compassion gives us a fresh start.

By creating fresh starts, we work with God to care for all and participate in the holy work of renewal so all may joyfully gather at the table together, receiving God's abundance.

Through hearing God's instruction in Leviticus 25, we will learn the meaning and history of "Jubilee." We will see how rest/sabbath, fresh starts, and taking care of one another are all important forms of compassion and justice.

Sunday Sermon: Watch on Facebook, YouTube, or on the Website.

Weekly Prayer: Joyful Spirit, Your loving hands are always creating freedom, release, and fresh starts! Help us do the same today by caring for all living things with gentleness and care. Open us to humbly receive that same care ourselves. Make our hearts smile and our actions sing with your promise of abundance toward the whole world *Amen*.

Coloring Your Prayers: "Joyful Spirit" can be found in your packet.

Imagine: What does it feel like to rest? Why do you think it's important to have a fresh start? Why do you think it's important for the land to rest?

Going Deeper into Compassion:

Watch "Billions in Change" & "The Story of Bottled Water" on YouTube

- Both documentaries are about WATER and how we are facing a global crisis of water.
- How do you feel differently about water after watching these? What do you think are small steps you can take to solving the problem?

Daily Examen:

Open: God is good, all the time! All the time, God is good!

Pray: God of fresh starts, You provide us with more than enough. Use us to be instruments of your generosity and abundance. *Amen*.

Reflections: What surprised you today? What disappointed you today? When did you share kindness today? When did you not share kindness today? And what are you most thankful for today?

Compassion in Action Already at St. George's!

Compassion Camp VBS: This Monday, July 6th, we kicked off our first session! There were a few technical difficulties, but we were able to share the parable of the father and the two brothers and start a centerpiece for their table — to remind them of how God draws everyone together at the table.



Cooking for Christ: We are continuing to deliver free meals every couple of weeks — a way we seek to connect with one another and share love via a meal and support our members in this time of pandemic. If you have questions or know of someone who needs a meal every couple of weeks, contact Susan Dunn at 409-739-6967.



Mask Making: Thanks to Eleanore Wuthrich, some of our ladies have been making wonderful masks. If you are willing to help, please contact Eleanore or the church at 409-945-2583.



Kidz Pacz: Making food available for kids during summer in collaboration with the Galveston County Food Bank. So far, we have given Kidz Pacz to 8 families — 22 children!



The Garden of Hope: Our garden grows wild flowers and a few vegetables thanks to the H.O.P.E. Homeschool Group.

Strategic Plans

are taking place as new teams form to confirm and make real the vision and goals at February's Vestry Retreat.

The Good News is we now have a way to make our vision and mission a reality in the context of fun, loving community. Each group has a leader, chaplain, communications person, prayer partner, and plan keeper. Each group is responsible with confirming and adding to the goals formed. Pastor Robin and the Mission & Vision Team will walk alongside each team to help them. They will need help from others, so consider what is of interest to you.

Trainings and Orientations have begun with our Strategic Mission & Vision Team.

The first up is the Invite, Welcome, Connect Team (IWC).

Leader: Sandy Tompkins

Communications: Beverly Ross

Chaplain: Olive Krell

Plan Keeper: Lee Sanders

Prayer Partner: Helen Kelemen



Teams forming now are:

- + Caring for Each Other led by Marie Carlson
 - + Out Into the World led by David Kautz
 - + Spiritual Formation

Please let Sharon Willingham know if you are interested in learning more or would like to volunteer by contacting her at 409-739-6967 .

Congratulations!

Raquel Balderas!

as one of 40 under 40 exceptional young professionals by Galveston Daily News.
You give us Hope!



Thank you for your servant leadership, kindness, and compassion. As a faith community, we are invested in helping families be well. Thank you Raquel for leading with these ministries: The Cooking Class with crafts, The Garden of Hope, Kidz Pacz distribution, broadcasting services and prayers, 4B Disaster Recovery, and spreading Signs of Hope across our community!

We love you and are so proud of you!

Noonday Prayer

After taking a small break, we are back with Noonday Prayer! If you are interested in leading once a week or every once in awhile or would like to know more information, please let Susan Dunn know.

More Information:

Noonday Prayer is Monday-Friday @ 12 PM on Facebook
Normally recorded live on Facebook Live

But, you can pre-record in advance and we will upload the video the day of
We can send you the bulletin in advance to review, just let us know!

Ways you can connect online with us!

If you need tech support, even a device, let us know!

**Sunday Service FB or Zoom @ 9:30 AM;
Website & YouTube after the Service**

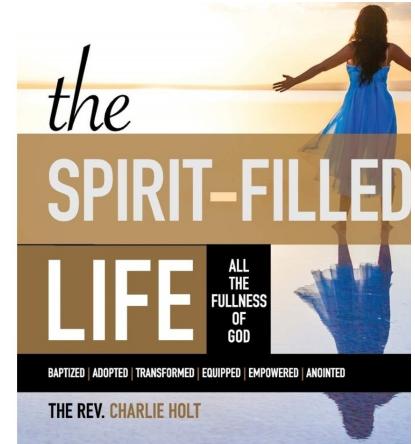
**Sun. Coffee Hour
Zoom @ 10:15 AM**

**Coffee Hour via Zoom
Sundays
10:15-10:45 a.m.**

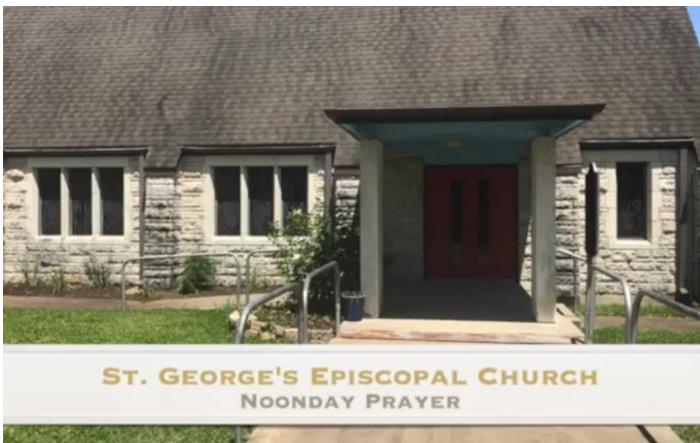


**Sun. Bible Study
Zoom @ 11 AM**

**Bible
Study via
Zoom
Sundays
11-12 p.m.**

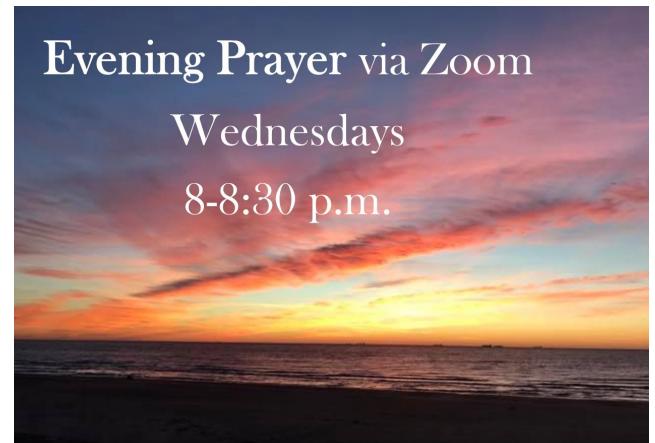


**M-F Noonday Prayer
Facebook @ 12 PM**



**Wed. Evening Prayer
Zoom @ 8 PM**

**Evening Prayer via Zoom
Wednesdays
8-8:30 p.m.**



**Facebook (FB) Page:
St Georges Texas City**

**YouTube Channel:
St. George's Texas City**

**Zoom Information:
Meeting ID: 977 818 3721
Password: 328259**

**You can call in with this number:
Call +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)**