

## WE TELL OUR STORIES



### Equal at the Table of God

By Michelle Shonbeck

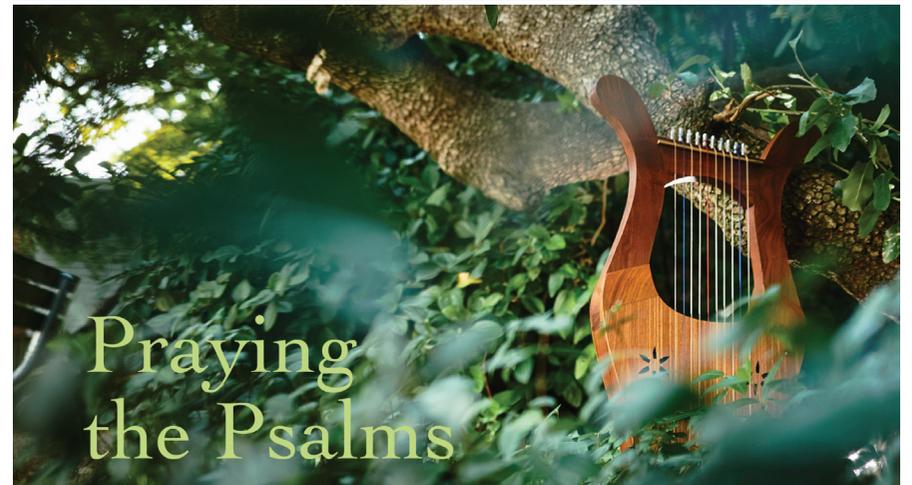
There's a memory from my childhood that's meaningful to me. It's a little blurred around the edges, as childhood memories can be. I was eight or nine years old, and it was near Christmas. My dad was going to run some errands and asked if I wanted to join him. I jumped at the chance to spend time alone with him.

I don't recall any of the errands we ran that day except for one, the stop at Dad's bank. We walked in, and he introduced me to all the tellers and the bank president. He was an extrovert and knew everyone at the bank. Dad was there to deliver a Christmas present, but it wasn't to any of the people I'd just met.

We walked back outside, and he introduced me to the parking attendant. Dad knew him also and had developed a warm rapport. The gift was for his friend, the parking attendant. As I grew up and reflected on this story (and others), I realized my dad's kindness and authentic friendships with people of all income levels was extraordinary, not ordinary.

He especially had a soft spot for people who struggled financially, and he instilled in my siblings and me a sense that we are all equal at the table of God. People who were poor weren't worse than us or better than us; they just had struggles we didn't have. And he taught us, we had a responsibility to help those who struggled, and this was rooted in his understanding of Christianity. The Bible told him to help others, so he did, modeling for us what faith in action might look like.

## WE STUDY THE BIBLE



Psalm 72:1-8 UMH #795

### 1 Samuel 8:10-18

<sup>10</sup> Samuel told all the words of the Lord to the people who were asking him for a king. <sup>11</sup> He said, "This is what the king who will reign over you will claim as his rights: He will take your sons and make them serve with his chariots and horses, and they will run in front of his chariots. <sup>12</sup> Some he will assign to be commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and others to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and still others to make weapons of war and equipment for his chariots. <sup>13</sup> He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. <sup>14</sup> He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive groves and give them to his attendants. <sup>15</sup> He will take a tenth of your grain and of your vintage and give it to his officials and attendants. <sup>16</sup> Your male and female servants and the best of your cattle and donkeys he will take for his own use. <sup>17</sup> He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his slaves. <sup>18</sup> When that day comes, you will cry out for relief from the king you have chosen, but the Lord will not answer you in that day."

### Sermon Notes for July 1, 2018

#### *Sea to Shining Sea: Last in the Series, How to Pray the Psalms*

Tom Pace preaching

1. Royal/Enthronement Psalms: Israel and kings
2. How to pray for your country
  - principles
  - prosperity
  - protection and peace
  - poor and powerless

### Key Verse for the Week

*Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.* –  
Psalm 72:1

### Questions for Conversation and Reflection

When you pray for our country, do you pray for principles or politics? What do you think it means to be "a prosperous nation"? When you pray for our country, do you lift up in particular the poor and powerless?

## WE PRAY THE PSALMS

**Sunday, July 1**  
**Psalm 72:18-19**

Praise be to the Lord God, the God of Israel, who alone does marvelous deeds. Praise be to his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen and Amen.

**Monday, July 2**  
**Psalm 117**

Praise the Lord, all you nations! extol him, all you peoples! For great is his love towards us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord!

**Tuesday, July 3**

May your Kingdom be fulfilled throughout the world, O Lord, for we trust that thy forgiving love is ours as a gift each day. We give thanks and praise always for your many blessings. Amen.

**Wednesday, July 4**  
**Independence Day**

Heavenly Father, today we celebrate the freedom of our nation, and we thank you, Lord, for the blessings you have bestowed on our great country. While we celebrate, help us to remember the cost of this freedom, and those who willingly gave their lives so

that we could be free. Help us also to remember that our country was founded on you and that true freedom is found in your son, Jesus Christ, who died on the cross so that we can be set free from sin. Amen.

**Thursday, July 5**

Everyone in the world sings songs to God. Father, you love us better than any other love we can know. We can trust in you no matter what. Hail to you, our King. Amen.

**Friday, July 6**

All the people of the world, come before God with praise. Lift God up, He loves us forever and ever. No matter what He will love us. Give thanks and praise always. Amen.

**Saturday, July 7**

Heavenly Father, thank you that I am fearfully and wonderfully made as an original masterpiece handcrafted by you, the King of Kings. Help me to remember that I am your child and that I am loved unconditionally. Keep me focused on you and your great plans for my life so that I may use my spiritual gifts for your Kingdom's purposes. Amen.

**Service of Prayer and Healing**  
**Wednesday, July 11 | 7-8 p.m. | Chapel**

Join us as we lift our burdens to the Lord and fill afresh with God's spirit. Rev. Thomas Harper will lead this time of prayer and communion where we ask God for spiritual and physical healing for ourselves or a loved one.

**So many ways to pray...**

- ✚ Write your prayer request on one of the leaves found in the pew rack
- ✚ Visit the interactive prayer wall at [StLukesMethodist.org/prayer](http://StLukesMethodist.org/prayer)
- ✚ Call the prayer line 713-402-5088
- ✚ Email Rev. Thomas Harper at [tharper@stlukesmethodist.org](mailto:tharper@stlukesmethodist.org)

**We are here for you!** If you or someone you know needs prayer, a hospital visit or contact from a minister, call Rev. Bill Denham at 713-402-5156.

## WE MAKE FRIENDS

**TODAY! First Sunday Church Tour**

Meet in the Commons following the 11 a.m. worship service for a historical walking tour of the entire campus.

**STARTS TODAY! Financial Peace University | July 1-August 26 | 4-6 p.m. | ES308**

America's financial guru, Dave Ramsey, shares the basics of budgeting and planning for the future. \$129. [StLukesMethodist.org/Adult-Small-Groups](http://StLukesMethodist.org/Adult-Small-Groups)

**STARTS NEXT WEEK! At the Crossroads: Leadership Lessons for the Second Half of Life Mondays | 6-7 p.m. | July 9-August 13 | ES309**

This six-week Bible-based study, led by Claud Riddles and Mary Schuler, offers comprehensive, practical help for Christians who are approaching, entering, or already in retirement. \$10. Register at [StLukesMethodist.org/Adult-Small-Groups](http://StLukesMethodist.org/Adult-Small-Groups)

**Judge Julie Truly and the Case of the Holey Roof! | July 16-20 | 1:30-5:30 p.m.**

Children entering grades 1-5 will rehearse this musical taken from the New Testament on Monday-Friday with a performance at 6 p.m. on Friday, July 20. \$75. Register: <http://bit.ly/judge-julie-truly>.

**The Rob Landes Trio presents Music from the Fabulous 50s**

**Sunday, July 22 | 4-5 p.m. | Sanctuary**

Come enjoy a nostalgic afternoon with the Rob Landes Trio. A free-will offering will benefit the Friends of Music at St. Luke's.

**Coffee with the Pastor | Wednesday, July 25 | 5:30-7 p.m.**

CWP is a casual gathering led by Sr. Pastor, Dr. Tom Pace. It is the perfect way to learn more about St. Luke's and is the first step on the path to membership. Sign up online at [StLukesMethodist.org/im-new/#membership](http://StLukesMethodist.org/im-new/#membership)

**Summer Bible Study for Middle and High School Students**

**Wednesdays | 7 p.m. | Student Ministries Building**

**Holy Land Trip: There are a few spaces available on the September 28-October 9**

**trip.** For information and registration: Karen Smith 713-402-5086 or [StLukesMethodist.org/church-updates](http://StLukesMethodist.org/church-updates)

## WE GIVE OURSELVES AWAY

in generosity and service.



**Family Sunday Serve: Bagging Beans & Rice**  
**Sunday, July 15 | 12:30-2 p.m.**

**Gethsemane Campus**

Join us for lunch and a special Sunday Serve at our Gethsemane campus! We'll have lunch and package beans and rice for Christian Community Center's Food Pantry. Fun for the whole family! RSVP to Meredith Davis at [mdavis@stlukesmethodist.org](mailto:mdavis@stlukesmethodist.org) or [StLukesMethodist.org/events](http://StLukesMethodist.org/events).

**Make a donation:** Be a hero and cover the cost of the beans and rice! At \$1 per pound, how many pounds would you like to underwrite? Give online at [StLukesMethodist.org/beansandrice](http://StLukesMethodist.org/beansandrice)

**Harvey Restoration Teams are still at work** repairing homes affected by the hurricane. All tools provided - no experience needed. Next dates: July 21 and August 24. Sign up at [StLukesMethodist.org/houston-flood-relief](http://StLukesMethodist.org/houston-flood-relief)



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