

August 2026

The Episcopal Church
in
Gettysburg, PA

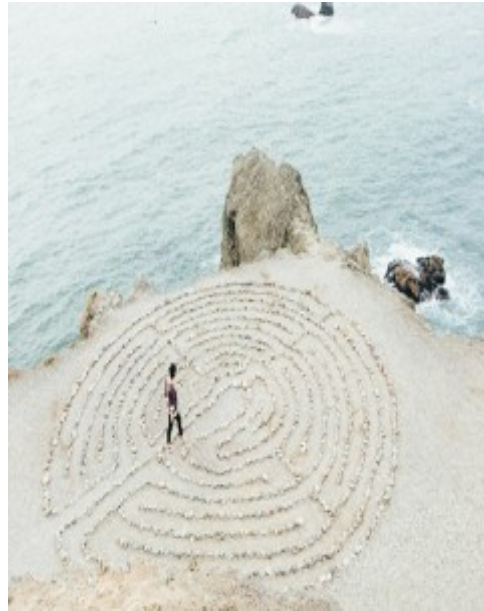
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The Memorial Church of the Prince of Peace

The Episcopal Epistle

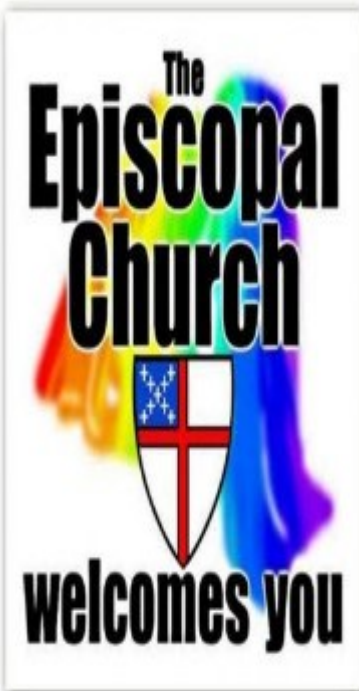
From the Priest In Charge *The Rev. Jim Strader-Sasser*



Then Jesus said to his disciples, "All who want to come after me must say no to themselves, take up their cross, and follow me. All who want to save their lives will lose them. But all who lose their lives because of me will find them. Why would people gain the whole world but lose their lives? What will people give in exchange for their lives?"
(Matthew 16: 24-26 – Common English Bible)

What do you think about when you hear the word – "soul?" Would you be able to explain what the term "soul" means to you in a paragraph or two? Is a "soul" a human construct – constrained to our species alone? Do our souls travel to eternal locations such as heaven or hell dependent upon the decision we made or the actions we take in the span of our mortal lives?

I have some thoughts about how we might answer these questions beyond modern assumptions and reflecting upon the original meanings of the words in their original context. The author(s) of Matthew's Gospel use the Greek term *psuché* (ψυχή) 16 times in one way or another. (West, n.d.). Generally – especially in contemporary terms – this term



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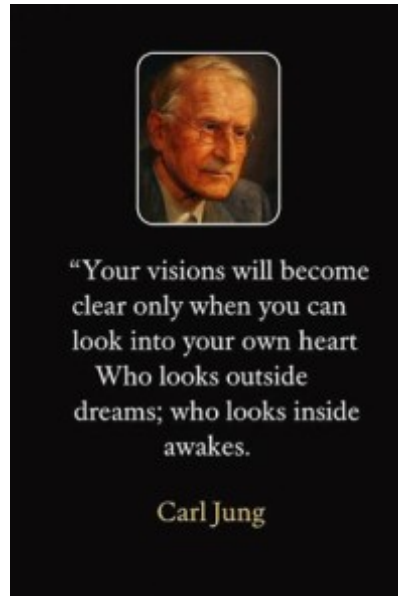
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correlates w/ psyche – something to do with the psychological aspects of who we are.

That said, ancient Greeks understood *psuché* in a variety of ways changeable over time. I'll also note that there was a similar – almost identical term in ancient Aramaic *Napsha* (ܢܦܫܐ). In Aramaic, **napsha** refers to the whole, breathing self—the essence of a person's life that encompasses both our physical, mortal reality and our enduring, eternal depth. Matthew was documented in koine Greek. However, Jesus would have spoken in Aramaic. That's worth exploring in a couple of ways. I'm going to focus on *napsha* and what it means in terms of understanding Matthew's Jesus and its valuable meaning for faithful followers of Jesus.

First, one could read Matthew 16: 24-26 and think that Jesus is speaking specifically about mortal life. That's not the same way a person who heard or read this passage in Aramaic would understand the passage. *Napsha* indicated that a person's self (life) was (is) both mortal and eternal. A loose and historically debatable way of understanding this concept is to say that how a soul/self lives its mortal life directly impacts the well-being of that soul/self's eternal life. A soul pursuing selfish, egoistic

goals cannot obtain eternal life because such a soul/self doesn't undertake sacrificial actions in an archetypal manner as Jesus the Christ did/does.



The rub for us today is that we are encultured to seek personal achievements, wealth, and other stuff. Jesus would describe such possession as temporary and short-lived.

(Matthew 6: 19-21). Such objectives are not only misguided, but they are also exhausting too. How much fun is it to “Keep up with the Jones?” Seeking such objectives may turn into something like a hamster running on its wheel. It isn't possible to reach the goal regardless of how hard you try. And will we truly become incredibly happy when we get a promotion, buy a fancy car, or get the newest Apple cellphone. [Hedonic Adaptation Theory](#) suggests otherwise. Purposeful, relational, joyful endeavors are more valuable than materials or possessions that you'll have to replace or repair. Life is more valuable when we use a sacred set of lenses to guide our paths.

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Yearning for a deeper understanding for my “self” isn’t new to me. Some years ago, I had a conversation with [Tenneson Woolf](#) on his podcast. You can listen to the entire podcast [here](#) (if you’re interested). Tenneson asked me a question about 3/4s of the way through our chat. His inquiry has stuck with me since that day. He asked: “Are there particular questions that you think people should be asking these days?” I answered in part by saying “Why is it that you’re on this planet at this particular time? What is it that you can offer that no one else can offer?” Let me say, before I go any further, that I answered that question from my specifically privileged social location. I am a white male living in, until recently, a free and safe society – especially for men who look like me. I’m well educated, well-paid, and can afford to travel around the world. I have liberties to express myself in ways that many other people who look and live differently than me cannot. (*“Much will be demanded from everyone who has been given much, and from the one who has been entrusted with much, even more will be asked.”*) [Luke 12:48 CEB](#).

That said, we are all on mortal as well as soulful pilgrimages. Our lives are a miraculous, painfully beautiful opportunity to sacramentally offer ourselves beyond our own personal comforts. It is Christlike and more human to comprehend that we are participating in a flow of enduring, divine movements of love. Our *napsha* indeed means confronting our personal and societal shadows. Dare I say that we need to earnestly look within ourselves at the things that we don’t love or understand (shadows). How shall we demonstrate courage to stop fighting for our isolated survival? Instead, may we bravely take actions trusting that when we surrender our small self to the cosmic current of love, we don’t vanish, we participate. We gain our lives as part of the Divine’s eternal presence. We finally discover who we actually are - beautifully connected hopeful humans abiding in a living universe that God is continually, compassionately bringing to life.

Blessings along The Way, Jim+



From The Organist & Choir Director



There are still opportunities for special music at our worship services throughout the remaining summer months while the choir is on break. Those singers and instrumentalists of the congregation wishing to offer their unique musical gifts with vocal and/or instrumental solos, duets or small ensembles please speak with Cathy Elkiss to discuss possibilities. Thank you!



"Choirs are more than just groups of singers; they are vibrant communities where voices unite to create something transcendent." — Unknown

"As long as we live, there is never enough singing."

— Martin Luther

For all those who currently sing in the Prince of Peace Choir, or have sung in the choir in the past, or would like to consider singing in the choir in the upcoming year . . . please join us as we begin our new choir season!

Prince of Peace choir rehearsals will begin again after Labor Day on **Thursday evening, September 10th at 7:00 PM**

Please come and bring a friend as we celebrate the beginning of our new choir season together,

"Singing and making melody unto the Lord,"
— all are welcome!

"Sing with all your heart, for in your voice, the love of God finds expression."

Communications Update

In recent weeks, we have continued our efforts to introduce more people to our beloved church, to increase awareness of all that we do here in Christ's name, and to give our own community more ways to engage in parish life. These initial steps are very much work in progress and will continue to improve as we move forward. Please let us know if you have any ideas for enhancing this work!

Communications email address:

If you have photos from events you would like to share or information about an upcoming church event that would be useful to post on our website, Facebook, or Instagram and/or to put out a press release in the local paper, please send them to:

communications@gettysburgepiscopal.org.

Website:

If you haven't already, check out our new website. It is a great place to see upcoming events and photos and to get information regarding ministries, outreach, and resources. Please share the site with others who might be interested in Prince of Peace. In addition to Father Jim's welcome video on the home page, there is a "plan your visit" link that provides helpful tips for visitors and newcomers to our church.

<https://www.gettysburgepiscopal.org/>

YouTube:

Our new YouTube Channel currently has 30 subscribers. We would love to see more! This is where you can watch the livestream for Sunday 10:15 services in real time or revisit the recording later. The latest livestream is also posted on our website (on the Worship page) each week.

<https://www.youtube.com/@PrinceofPeaceEpiscopalChurch/streams>

Facebook:

Our original, public Facebook page, created many years ago in the early days of Facebook, has been recently reactivated. We are just beginning to post again on this page and look forward to further increasing our presence there as we enter our more active church season in the fall. We currently have 84 followers on the page and would love to see that number grow! If you are a Facebook user, please follow our page if you do not already do so and like the recent posts. You can find us as Prince of Peace Episcopal Church

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057473168865>

Instagram:

As previously shared with the parish, we had an issue with Meta (the umbrella company for both Facebook and Instagram) very soon after we launched Prince of Peace's first Instagram account a couple of months ago. Thank you to the large handful of parishioners who responded to our invitation to follow that account for your patience with that initial failed attempt.

Since then, we believe we have resolved the issue through the creation of a new account linked to our original Facebook page. This new account was created several weeks ago, but we have only made a couple of posts since then and haven't encouraged followers before being sure that we were not going to have the same issue we did the first time.

If you are an Instagram user, please follow our new account and like the initial posts. As with Facebook, we hope to increase our followers in the months ahead and would love to see our parishioners enjoying the posts and supporting that effort.

https://www.instagram.com/princeofpeacegettysburg?utm_source=qr

Prince of Peace t-shirts:

It has been many years since we printed Prince of Peace t-shirts, and several parishioners have expressed an interest in getting new ones. This is a project we would love to work on this summer / early fall. If you have a great idea for a t-shirt design or have an interest in us considering other merchandise (e.g. long sleeve t-shirts, hoodies, hats), please reach out to communications@gettysburgepiscopal.org ASAP. Input from anyone with expertise in this area would be especially welcome!

Testimonials:

We would love to enhance our website (and possibly our YouTube page) with parishioners sharing what they love about Prince of Peace. This can be done through short written passages and/or through short video clips. If you would be willing to share a brief written statement or quote (anywhere from 1 to 6 sentences), please send those to the communications email address. Attribution for these will be by first name only or, if preferred, could be done through a descriptor (e.g. long-time parishioner or new member). If you would be willing to do a short video clip, please let us know through the communications email address as well.

Cat and Dog Product Donations



We continue our monthly ingathering of products for the two no kill shelters in the area we are

supporting: Forever Love in Gettysburg and the Helen Krause Animal Foundation in Dillsburg. When you go to the grocery store think about “God’s Little Ones” and pick up a can or two or a bag of cat or dog food to help these shelters feed, rehabilitate and find good loving homes, “Forever Homes”. We thank everyone for the very generous outpouring of support this past Sunday, July 26th. The bin was filled once again and Lee will be sure to pick up the products for delivery to the shelters. He expresses his sincere thanks to everyone who donated. The bin will be in place for the next scheduled intake date, Sunday, August 30th.



Mark Your Calendars

Please mark your calendars for the upcoming events at Prince of Peace:

Saturday, Aug. 1st: Book Club @ 11:00 AM

Audrianna Dusseau Senior Recital @ 4:00 PM

Tuesday, Aug. 25th: Deadline for the September newsletter.

Sunday, September 13th: Annual service and picnic at Gettysburg Area Recreation Park.

Help us keep our records up to date.

Have we missed listing your birthday or anniversary in the past?

We may not have the information in our database. Please contact Marrie at the office with your information.

717-334-6463

princeofpeace@gettysburgepiscopal.org

SERVICE SCHEDULE SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist

August Is Here

May the beauty of
August touch your soul
and bring warmth into
your home and peace to
your days. I pray for
everyone a good month
with blessings to your
hands and love to your
family and friends.
Stay safe and enjoy the
last days of summer.



August 2

Pentecost 10

Genesis 32:22-31

Psalms 17:1-7, 16

Romans 9:1-5

Matthew 14:13-21

August 9

Pentecost 11

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

Psalms 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b

Romans 10:5-15

Matthew 14:22-33

August 16

Pentecost 12

Genesis 45:1-15

Psalms 133

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28

August 23

Pentecost 13

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Psalms 124

Romans 12:1-8

Matthew 16:13-20

August 30

Pentecost 14

Exodus 3:1-15

Psalms 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c

Romans 12:9-21

The Memorial Church of the
Prince of Peace

P. O. Box 3005, 20 W. High St.

Gettysburg, PA 17325-3005

Telephone: 717-334-6463

The Rev. James Strader-Sasser
Priest in Charge

The Rev. Pamela Cooper White Ph.D. Priest
Associate

The Rev. Richard A. Ginnever
Priest Associate

The Rev. Jan Heller Ph.D. Priest Associate

The Rev. Cathy McKinney

Chaplain for Pastoral Care

Cathy Elkiss

Organist and Choirmaster

Marrie Sanders

Parish Administrator

princeofpeace@gettysburgepiscopal.org

Tim Back, Sexton

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



LECTIONARY