

Subject: PrayingUp A Storm
From: "St. Francis Episcopal Church" <vicar@stfrancisva.org>
Sent: 10/23/2014 10:34:40 AM
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S⁺ Francis



October 22, 2014

Praying Up A Storm

*... the smoke and the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God from the hand of the angel. Then the angel took the censer and filled it with fire from the altar and threw it on the earth, and there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.
Revelation 8:4+5*

What A Scene!

The verses above from the readings for Morning Prayer this morning depict an absolutely incredible, even frightening, scene of what things might be like at the throne of God. This particular scene shows what happens with our prayers. One of the reasons prayer can be so powerful is that it goes to the center of power for the whole universe, as this scene shows.

What Does It Mean?

The smoke, incense, fire, thunder, lightning, and earthquake are all symbols of the presence of God. The incense is symbolic of the cloud covering the mountain when God was there giving the ten commandments. The fire is symbolic of the presence of God appearing to Moses at the burning bush. The earthquake reminds us God's appearance to Elijah. The thunder and lightning point to God's presence described in Psalm 29. The incense is also symbolic of our prayers. Notice two things:

1. The incense and the prayers of the saints are all mixed together. Our prayers, yours, mine and ours, mingle with the presence of God. He deeply hears what we pray, think, sing, and offer in worship.
2. The angel throws the prayers back upon the earth releasing the thunder, lightning, rumblings, and an earthquake. What does that mean? Your answers will be greater, bring deeper change, and even more disruption than you originally intended.

One conclusion out of many we can draw here is this- it is a very good thing to pray up a storm. What is God asking you to ask Him? Pray it back to Him in the Name of Jesus.

Coming Attractions

Sunday, October 26, 2014 worship at 10:00am

Thursday, October 30, 2014 Business After Hours 5:30pm-7:30pm

Sunday, November 2, 2014 All Saints' Sunday worship at 10:00am

Caritas takes place on November 26th. We provide the meal that evening for the homeless staying at Christ Church that week. Contact Jenna Nelson

to help jnelson561@gmail.com

Christmas Mother takes place in early December. We help provide Christmas gifts to those unable to provide them this year. Contact Janice Nelson to join in jlrrn2610@comcast.net

Centerville Circle of Prayer

For Yardworks, that this business would grow, and many people would see increase value in their homes.

Metropoitan Richmond

For public, non-profit, and religious social service work and ministries in Metropolitan Richmond: For emergency shelters, women's shelter's, youth programs, juvenile counseling, and young people's shelters.

Diocese of Virginia

For the congregations and clergy of St. James', Warrenton, St. Mary's, Colonial Beach; St. Patrick's, Falls Church.

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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