

Subject: Abundance
From: "St. Francis Episcopal Church" <vicar@stfrancisva.org>
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St Francis



February 17, 2016

Abundance

*O Jerusalem, Jerusalem . . . How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings . . .
Luke 13:34*

Abundance

This coming Sunday we see in the gospel this lament of Jesus over Jerusalem. At the heart of how Jesus feels about Jerusalem on that day is His desire for that city to fulfill its purpose and calling. I believe every town, neighborhood and city has a purpose for its existence. God desire for that purpose to be fully realized for the common good of all who live there. The gifts of the people who live in any given place can be encouraged and used together for the benefit of everyone. Part of the work of the church is contribute to common good of all places by building up those who live there and encouraging the use of their gifts for the good of all.

Abundance Here

Occasionally I am invited by the Goochland County Chamber of Commerce to offer an invocation at some of the events the Chamber holds. I always look forward to these events and am honored when invited to offer something. Last month I was invited to offer the invocation at the Annual Banquet. I saw it as an opportunity to ask God to provide us with the grace and power to use all of our gifts together to establish strong businesses, build strong households, increase effective education, and grow together for the common good. I want to share with you today the prayer I offered:

Almighty God, we give you thanks

- for our lives here in Goochland County
- for our health, our imaginations, our skills, talents, gifts, and assets

We thank you for the dreams you have given us for the common good to increase through our businesses, non-profits, and social agencies.

We thank you for

- our employees, staff members, stakeholders, contributors, and investors
- our customers, clients, patrons, and supporters

We thank you for the growing business climate in our county

We ask you for

- wisdom to offer better, richer service to the people of our communities
- increased capacity in every business, organization, and non-profit
- health, strength, and prosperity for all of our employees, staff, and volunteers
- economic growth to help empower the dreams of every entrepreneur and business owner
- teachers and educators who will unlock and release the power, imagination, ingenuity, and intelligence of those who will be future leaders in our communities
- and finally, for a new wave of creativity, commitment and courage to dream new dreams, walk through new doors and with bold daring-move into undiscovered realms of opportunity and prosperity

We ask all of this with humble dependence on your provision. Amen.

So, friends, let's continue to ask for God's provision for the places where we

live and work.

Coming Attractions

Sunday, February 21, 2016 Worship at 10:00am

Sunday, February 28, 2016 Worship at 10:00am

Our Missional Communities:

Symphony will be leading worship at Symphony Manor on February 28th at 9:00am. Please contact Bobbie Leviness at bobbiedrew@yahoo.com

Please bring nonperishable food items to worship each Sunday to be distributed through the Food Pantry of the Goochland Free Clinic and Family Services

Centerville Circle of Prayer

For Yu's China Bistro for good health, stable, happy customers, and employees who stay a long time.

Diocese of Virginia

For the clergy and people of St. John's Tappahannok, St. David's Aylett, St. Mary's Arlington, Aquila, Stafford, St. Margaret's, Woodbridge that they would continually walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Metropolitan Richmond

For redemption of any and all divisions, prejudices, pettiness, despair, and discrimination of the past.

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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