



Nurturing Faith... Every Day in Every Way

June 28, 2020

Jeremiah 28:5-9
Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18
Romans 6:12-23
Matthew 10:40-42



4th Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome, welcome, welcome Y'all!!!! There are a whole lot of welcomes in our gospel reading from Matthew today! Did you know that in many parts of the world, a pineapple is a sign of welcome? Some people have a pineapple carved into the entry of their home; others have brass door knockers in the shape of a pineapple attached to their doors. Pineapples are sometimes carved into the design of tables and beds.

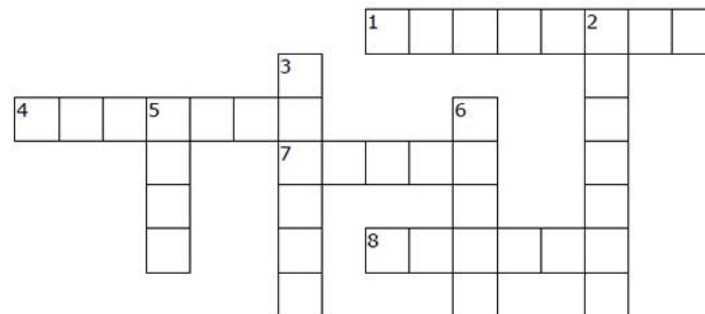
Long ago, before there were airplanes, pineapple, which grew in tropical climates, was not available to most people in the world. Explorers returning from a voyage sometimes brought pineapple to their king and sailors fastened a pineapple to their gate post when they returned from sea. As a result of these customs, the pineapple became a sign of welcome.

There are many kinds of welcomes. Perhaps you wave, smile, and say "hi" to a friend. When you go to your grandpa and grandma's house the welcome might be hugs and kisses. You may take a bouquet of flowers or cookies to a new neighbor. All of these things are done to make others feel accepted and comfortable.

As Christians we especially want others to feel accepted and welcome. Jesus tells us that "He who receives you receives me, and he who receives me receives him who sent me." When we make someone feel comfortable and accepted, we are sharing the love of Jesus, just as Jesus calls us to do.

Gracious God, help us to share Jesus' love in the world by helping to make others feel welcome and accepted. Amen.

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

1. A follower of Jesus
4. To gladly receive someone into your own house
7. An odorless, colorless, tasteless liquid; H₂O
8. Small; not large

DOWN

2. A person who speaks for God
3. Recognition of someone's good behavior
5. The opposite of hot; having a very low temperature
6. A fact that has been proven

PROPHET	TRUTH	DISCIPLE	COLD
LITTLE	WELCOME	REWARD	WATER

Activity: Think of ways we can make our home or church building feel more welcoming. Perhaps stencil the word "welcome" on a large painted board that you can prop up next to the front door or make a bright, cheery wreath to hang and add a "welcome" mat.

Discussion Question When you go to someone's home for the first time, what makes you feel welcome? How can you extend that feeling to others?

Table Prayer for June:

Thank you, God, for Summer
For longer days and a warm breeze
For garden veggies and fresh fruit from the trees
For fireflies and family time and all that you provide
Thank you, God, for the Holy Spirit who is always by my side.
Amen.

Memory Verse for June: Psalm 86:7 In the time of my trouble I will call upon you, for you will answer me.



I can make others feel welcome by being friendly

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