

**“Come to me,
all you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest”
Matthew 11:28**



**Reflections on the
Stained-Glass Windows of
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
Melbourne, Florida**

***This booklet is a collection of reflections* on the stained-glass windows
at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church shared by parishioners.
It is our hope that you will find them a source of
encouragement, comfort, and joy.***

***Heather Goodwin and Kerry Grant,
Stewardship Committee Co-Chairs***

****May be edited for clarity, conciseness, grammar etc.***

**“Come to me,
all you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest”**

Matthew 11:28

Jesus holding the Lamb in his hand. When I see that Lamb is me.
He is holding me with his Love for us.

Tambil Chmielinski

This particularly speaks to me as I picture myself as a lamb He is holding. Just the thought of it brings me comfort in times of particular hardship. I’ve also been able to share this vision with friends who have been going through difficult times.

They feel that it gives them comfort as well.

Anonymous



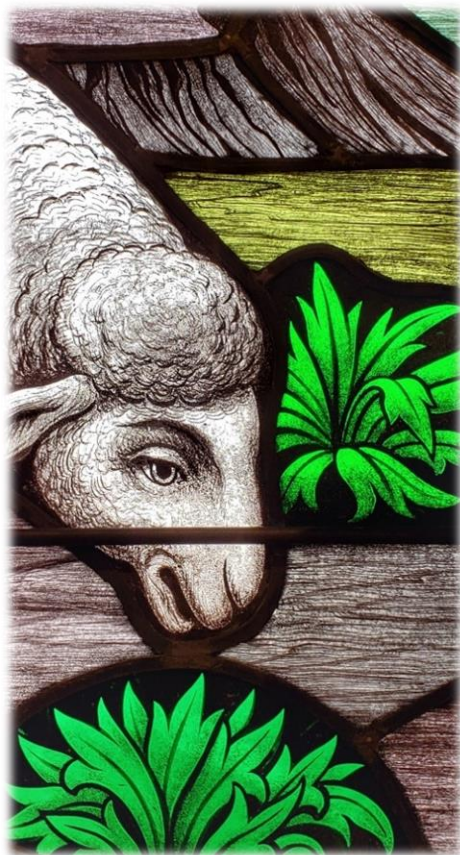
God holding the lamb.
He is wrapping His arms around me
and protecting me and guarding me against the sins and sinners,
(protecting me against the sins of the world)
and sharing His love for all mankind.

Anonymous

Dear Holy Trinity Family,

One of the great blessings of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church and our historic Chapel is all the beautiful stained-glass windows. When you enter the narthex, you are surrounded by twinkling colors of light that change throughout the day. Along the sides of both the church and the chapel are stories told in colored glass. Now the bell tower, and even one of the restrooms, also contains beautiful windows with their colorful stories. Thanks to the beauty of these windows, we are surrounded by characters from our favorite Bible stories and constantly encouraged by their silent witness.

Sometimes I like to walk into the chapel or church when no one else is there and slowly stop and pray, using the windows as a guide. Sometimes my prayer goes along with the biblical story depicted in the window, and sometimes my prayer is one of thanksgiving for the people who gave the window and their role in the Communion of Saints.



When Steve and I first came to Holy Trinity fifteen years ago, we learned a few unexpected things right away. On our very first Sunday, I discovered that part of the Eucharistic prayer was typically sung by the priest at one service. At that service, the Eucharist was celebrated at the high altar. This particular prayer was sung as the priest was facing the window rather than the people. I had never done that! And I didn't know how! Somehow, the search committee had omitted that small detail and had not asked whether I knew how to "sing the service." The thought of singing a solo at the altar brought no small amount of terror to my heart. How would I do that?

It worked out okay thanks to a lamb in the stained-glass window. Above the altar in the church, we have a wonderful depiction of Jesus with several lambs. At the bottom of the window is one lamb that looks exceptionally friendly. It is calmly nibbling on a few blades of grass. I soon figured out that all I needed to do was sing to this friendly sheep in the window. Every now and then, I'm sure I could see her smiling at me.

This booklet contains lovely photos of many of Holy Trinity's stained-glass windows, along with a collection of stories and ideas from parishioners. We hope you enjoy reading it and we hope it brings to mind your own experiences with these windows. Have you ever sung to one of the windows? Have you ever let a scene in a window guide your prayers? Which window is your favorite? All of us are sheep that belong to Jesus. We are lambs that have been redeemed by his saving grace.

As you look at the window above the altar in the church, which of those sheep are you? Are you the one nibbling on the grass? Or perhaps the one who seems ready to wander off? Or are you the lamb that Jesus is gently holding in his arms? Maybe you have been all of those sheep at different times. Just remember that Jesus loves all the sheep. He goes after the lost sheep and desires only to bring all of the sheep into his fold, where there is one flock, one shepherd.

Rev. Pam



Sometimes I gaze upon this window
wondering which sheep am I today?

The one needing to be comforted,
supported, and held?

Am I the two on the right,
earnestly listening?

Am I the one on the bottom right,
listening but perhaps distracted,
needing to turn to Him,

but reminded that He's happy to have me there all the same?

Am I the one at His feet, content and at peace?

Am I the two on the left, perhaps keeping an eye on my children playing nearby?

This window reminds me that He's there, however I come,
and sometimes that's just what we need.

Anonymous

Talking to the Stained-Glass Windows (and Hearing Jesus Talk Back)

In my Bible studies, I try to share practical ways to live the faith. I never want to just “talk about” faith, I want to encourage people to go deeper into their relationship with God in Christ. So I often share my own personal devotions, not so much as something that parishioners *should do*, but more as something that just *might be helpful* in moving through life with Jesus.

So, one Wednesday morning in my Bible study, I talked about how, when things are particularly difficult for me, I go into the church when no one else is there, and I talk out-loud to the stained-glass window of Jesus above the altar. I typically say something like, “Jesus, these are the things going on in my life, and I have no idea what to do about them. ***Help me and save me***, I pray, and ***please give me some idea of what I should do next!*** I then shared that when I talk to Jesus in the stained-glass window, I always go away with some ideas of just what God would have me do. Usually what happens is a situation that had looked like a “checkmate” or a “stalemate” (I do like chess), ends up being a situation that has possibilities I had not at all considered before talking to Jesus. Jesus gives me the right move to make to stay in the game of life. God makes a way where there seems to be no way.

Sometimes the stained-glass windows themselves actually *talk back to me*, by how they “frame” the situation that I am experiencing. These two examples come to mind:



There is a beautiful stained-glass window of the nativity (the birth of Jesus) on the right side of the church towards the front as you face the altar from the pews. In the image, Jesus as a baby has his hands outstretched in blessing.

There is a similar representation as part of the little statue of the Holy Family to the left of the altar in the chapel.



Every Christmas, I look at those images, and I experience the Baby Jesus blessing me with the delight of His Real Presence at Christmas. The window and the statue say to me that the Word has become flesh in the beauty of a child, and I am blessed beyond words.

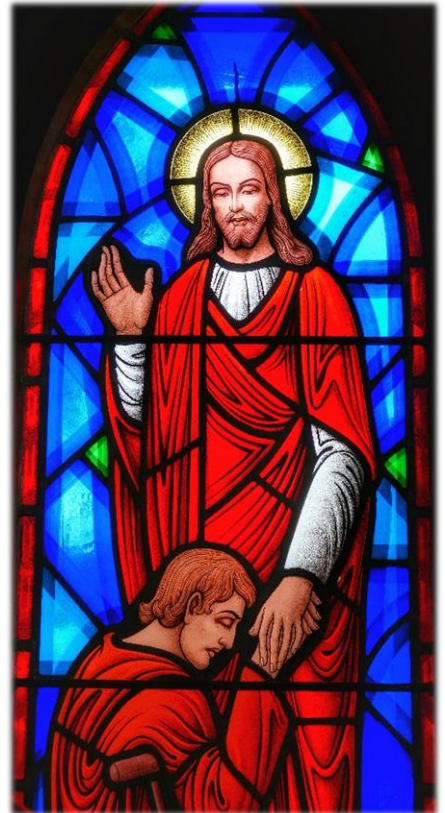


I once presided at a wedding in the Chapel, and as is typical at weddings, there was lots of photography. Weeks later, the bride shared with me a picture of my profile with the stained-glass window of “Jesus the Healer” (front of the Chapel on the left-hand side just beyond the lectern). I was overwhelmed with emotion, and the message was so very clear to me: *Jesus has my back!* Whenever I choose to pray for healing or act as a person sharing the healing of Jesus: *Jesus has my back!*

This little booklet is intended to honor the ways that you speak to God in prayer through the stained-glass windows of Holy Trinity, and the ways that God speaks to you. We are truly blessed to be part of a rich tradition of worship, strong and evocative in symbolism, that expresses the Love and Possibilities of God, as we live into a transforming relationship with Jesus Christ. May God continue to speak powerfully through the people and windows of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church!

With prayers that you always have a sense that God is making a Way for you in Christ Jesus.

Faithfully,
Fr. Steve

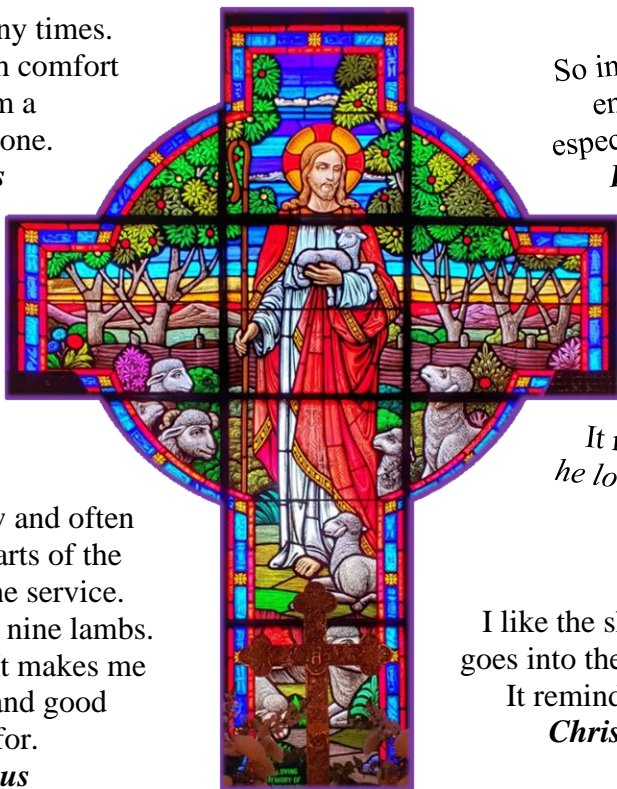


The Good Shepherd psalm is
my favorite psalm. I grew up
on a farm and we raised
sheep. Spring lambs were
always happy and bouncing!
Susan Mann

I enjoy looking at the bright colors and beautiful scene
of Jesus holding sheep. As I sat after church one
Sunday, I saw many new details in the window. Jesus
holding a staff, and through the trees you can see
mountains and sky. Jesus is our Good Shepherd, as he
cares for his sheep. He also cares even more for us.
Kathy Cole

We have moved many times.
I have never felt such comfort
and peace from a
window as this one.
Anonymous

So inviting as you first
enter the Church,
especially the first time!
Barbara Pierce



I would stare at it
during sermons
because it is beautiful.
Anonymous

It warms my heart.
Katherine Gibbs

It reminds me of how
he loves and cares for us.
Lisa Soloway

I love this window and often
look at various parts of the
window during the service.
Love Christ and his nine lambs.
Love the scenery. It makes me
feel so blessed and good
and cared for.
Anonymous

I like the sheep and the way it
goes into the hills in the distance.
It reminds me of England.
Christine Goodwin

It looks like you are walking up on the steppingstones with the
candles' light to talk with Jesus. He helps me out every day.
Nancy Swanson

It is the same as the Church I grew up in. A warm and
pretty collection of glass. I always felt Christ gazing at me.
Anonymous

I see my Lord and savior
as the good Shepherd
with his staff to rescue
me from danger, to
comfort us, teach us.
Anonymous

THE CHAPEL



The bell tower was designed to have places for seven stained glass windows. One day we found seven repurposed windows on a website that matched in size and glass, and more importantly, told stories from the Bible that we all know. Five windows show the Crucifixion, the Martha and Mary story, the Lost Coin, the Prodigal Son, and the Water of Life.



This brings me to the last two windows. One shows Satan tempting Jesus in the wilderness for forty days. At the end of forty days, He said, "Away with you Satan.: The second window is the angels coming to wait on Jesus.

I know that I am tempted by Satan every day and sometimes I fall. Then I look at the window of the Crucifixion and I know that Jesus died for my sin and all I need to do is believe in Him and ask for His forgiveness. If you look closely, you might recognize something at the feet of Satan that was also in the story of Adam and Eve.

Mike Crews

THE EAST WINDOWS

Stained glass windows tell stories of an event. The Nativity triptych on the East windows depicts the announcement of Jesus' birth to the shepherds, the Holy Family with baby Jesus in the manger, and the flight to Egypt where He was taken as a baby for protection from Herod. It reminds me of how God has a plan for us and has a plan for me.

As I looked through some old clippings in a scrapbook handed down to me from my grandmother, I found the announcement of my birth—I was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania. In the scrapbook, there was also an Eastern Airlines ticket for my mother and me. I was six weeks old, and it was a flight to Marianna, Florida, where my dad was going to flight training school at Graham Air Force Base.

It reminds us that God takes us on a journey throughout our lives. God had a plan for our salvation being fulfilled through Jesus. God also has a plan for me beginning before I was born, and it is a plan still in progress. The Nativity panels are a reminder to me that God's plan and promises will always be fulfilled.

Fr. Dave



I love this triptych because it reminds me of three important things. The Lord announces His presence not just to the shepherds, but to me—every day! Jesus is born every day anew in a person of faith; that means me, so it's my job to become a midwife for faith every day—mine and others! And the flight into Egypt is such a good reminder that I need to be prepared to go wherever Jesus sends me.

Bridget Morton



The birth of Jesus tells how He is
here to protect me and
love me no matter what.

Anonymous

When my children were small, they
believed Jesus was welcoming them
because his arms are extended. We
visited that window frequently.

Sharon Jones

This is the beginning of our history
and blessing of Jesus and
our faith as Christians.

Lisa Soloway

In this stained glass, Mary is looking down at baby Jesus. Joseph is there as well, and the three wisemen have brought gifts for Jesus. When I look at this stained glass, I see the parallel in my life and other mothers.

When your baby is born, you are visited by many bearing gifts. People come long and far to wish you well, see the baby, support you through the journey, and celebrate the most joyous moment. The most captivating image for me is Mary looking at baby Jesus. It is exactly the way a mother looks at her child after giving birth.

We look at our baby and have so much hope for them. We wonder what will our children do, what will they become, will they be good and kind. When we hold our child for the first time, we have so much hope for them and the future, the same feeling Mary must have had when she held Jesus. I gaze at that window quite often when I am in church and think of the similarities that I and every mother have in common with Mary.

Kerry Grant

All three East window because they are the ones the sun shines through in the morning when we are generally in church.

Quite beautiful.

Jack

I don't have a favorite really, during the forced exile from church I found myself missing the windows. I know you can pray anywhere but coming into the church the first thing I do is say a little prayer while looking at each window and finishing my course at the altar window. So much comfort that they give to me.

Anonymous



Jesus looking at us;
giving out his love to all!

Anonymous

The window is in memory of Archie Kerr who died in 1949—two years after my grandparents came to Melbourne. In the 60's they made Melbourne (Indian Harbor Beach) their permanent home. They also made Holy Trinity their church home. It is significant to me that Jesus is making the peace sign—as Holy Trinity has been a peaceful respite for members of my family for 74 years.

Sue Hills

THE WEST WINDOWS



Jesus being baptized window with
praying woman (possibly Mary) The
woman praying reflects the light
of Jesus upon her face.

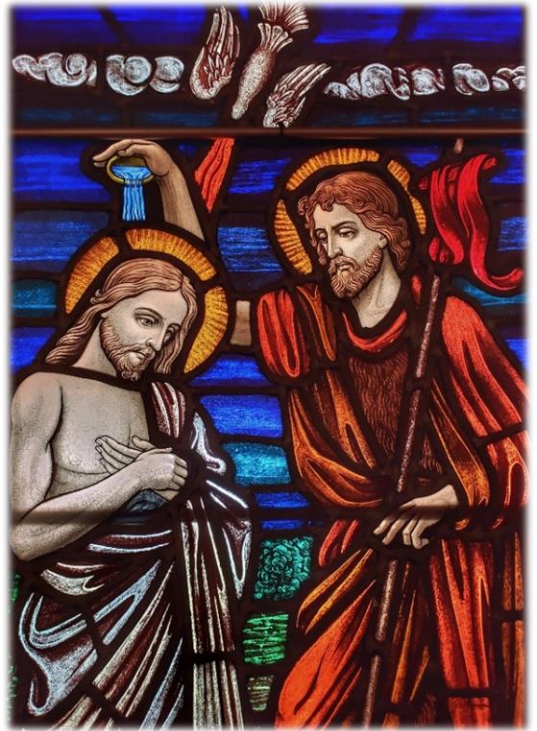
I think she represents all women that
have ever prayed for their children in
hopes of God's glory for them.

Tillie Newhart

Jesus being baptized by John the Baptist
The thought that Jesus humbled himself to
obey God the Father and fulfill
the scriptures humbles me.

I am reminded that we all need to obey
God and honor and respect Jesus as our
savior. This beautiful window shows how
the people of God came to Him and are
washed in the water of baptism
and the blood of Christ.

Loraine



John the Baptist as he is baptizing Jesus.

It helps me remember that Jesus was a man like us.

The entire window has such beautiful colors and makes it soothing on the eyes.

Anonymous

THE NARTHEX



It always amazes me when I see the elephant and the giraffe. What strange yet beautiful creatures they are. They remind me that our God is not only a God of beauty and love,
but He also has an awesome sense of humor!

Heather Goodwin

I have spent MANY hours with my five grandchildren when they were toddlers—they were getting restless in church, and I would take them out to see and name all the beautiful animals in the windows. That seemed to calm them so we could return to the service for communion. As young adults when they come into church they remember us doing that.

Margo Angelton

I love the birds and animals of God's creation.
Katherine Gibbs

My favorite is the one around the door in the narthex. I like it because it is local.
Marty Merkt





it's the panel with the Great Blue Heron, Glossy Ibis, and Snowy Egret that totally holds my attention. These are the simplest of birds, who go about their life doing their thing day to day, and just being amazing. I see them everywhere. They always put a smile on my face, and how they all fit into the overall story of the ecosystem is always something wonderful to see.

I am always happy to walk into the Narthex and see the sun streaming through those windows, reminding me of how amazing, beautiful, and interconnected the natural world is, all by God's hand.

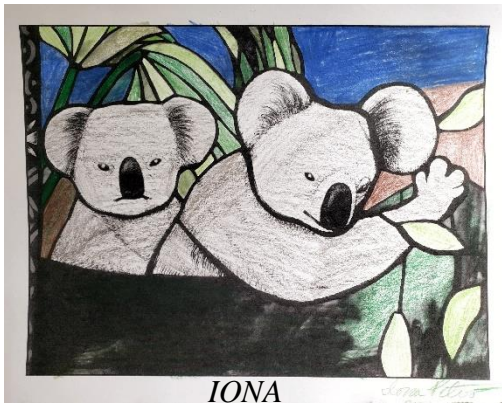
Richard Shevalier

To my mind, the beauty, the simplicity, and the intricacy of the natural environment truly reflects the hand of God. I have always called nature “my church”, even during those times when I was struggling to understand the presence of God in my life. I feel comfortable there. I feel like understanding the relationships between the varied living things gives me a small glimpse into how God chooses to run the universe (or set the universe in motion).

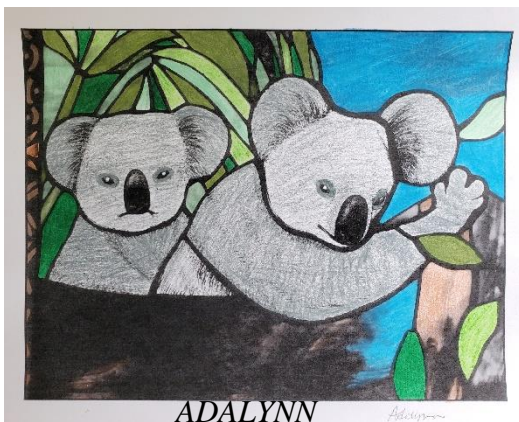
My whole life I have been told that the Bible is a story, created by man, to explain complicated ideas to uncomplicated people. To my mind then, nature is there, direct from God without needless dilution by man, for us to see, marvel at, and contemplate.

I am tempted to say that the panel with the Roseate Spoonbills is my favorite, but if I am honest, it really is not. It is a beautiful panel to be sure, as they are beautiful birds, but for me





Our Youth Artists





Have you heard the secret of the stained glass? The artist decided that Noah should have blue eyes and blond hair, not exactly what you might expect for a person from that part of the world in that time. But thinking about it, Holy Trinity is so accepting of everyone, whether you are blond hair or red, blue eyes or green. We don't discriminate; we are very accepting of all.

PS. The artist, John Emery, has a son, Noah, who grew up at Holy Trinity. I can still picture the blue eyed, blond haired little boy who sang louder than the other youngsters in the children's choir.

Judy Henderson

THE CHOIR ROOM

I love the stained-glass window in the choir room that was given by Lou West.

It is my favorite because it reminds me of the magnificent Christmas parties that she hosted at her beautiful home on the Indian River. She was a wonderful hostess and delightful woman. Every Wednesday at choir practice, as we rehearse our music for Sunday and the sun slowly sets in the west, the light shines through the window, keeping my memories of her fresh.

Sandy Hillyer



MISCELLANEOUS

I am new to Holy Trinity, having attended only three in-person services because of COVID 19 isolation. But I have been ‘attending’ for months now, streaming online Sunday mornings. During my in-person attendance, I noticed the beautiful stained-glass windows and greatly admired them, though I never actually took the opportunity to appreciate them up close.

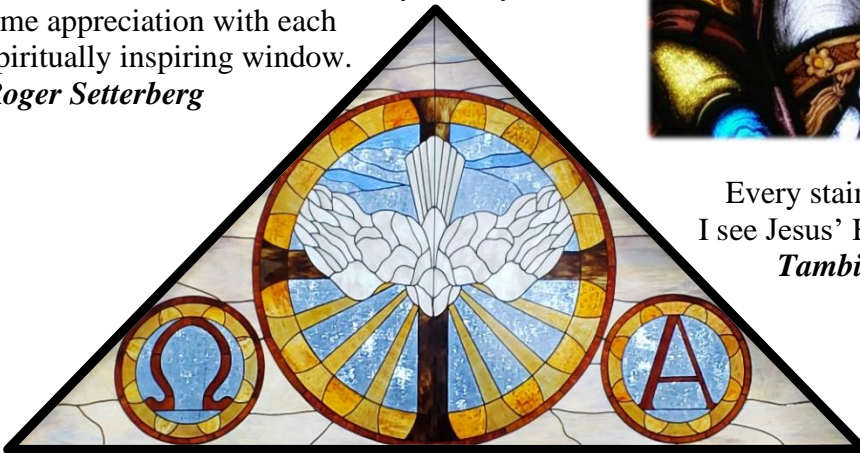
Then I volunteered for a ministry need which provided time alone in the church, and I have since spent a good amount of time admiring and appreciating each window. I have not selected any favorite, but rather a favorite time with all the windows. I’m thankful for my weekly, silent-time appreciation with each spiritually inspiring window.

Roger Setterberg



Every stained glass window.
I see Jesus’ Holy Spirit given us.

Tambil Chmielinski



I used to go over to Caroline Loftin’s house to bring communion. It was in her garage I was able to see her work with stained glass windows, the beautiful windows seen in the Chapel and in the church. There was a window she made that I never noticed until she mentioned it.

It is the one that hangs high at the entrance of the Parish Hall. It’s the Trinity, Alpha Omega, and the Holy Spirit. The window is even shaped as a triangle. The dove is aimed downward. The Holy Spirit provides us with gifts, talents, and abilities to be used in the service of the family of God. We need the Holy Spirit to remind us of His teachings to live and stand strong for the things of God.

Anonymous

“I stand at the door and knock,” is from a 19th century painting called “The Light of the World,” by the English painter Holman Hunt. The print of the painting in the Parish Hall is in memory of Fr. Marlowe Iverson, Interim Rector, who served Holy Trinity in 2005-2006.



I concentrate on the part of the painting where Jesus is tapping on the door, and I do believe it is a tap right now. Sometimes, however, He must knock a little stronger to get my attention.

Even Jesus slept on a cushion in a boat during a strong storm and had to be awakened ... not gently, I am sure.

A common connection with this particular scene is Revelation 3:20: “*Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come into him, and will sup with him, and he with me.*”

Ah, yes, I want to open the door to Jesus so we can “sup” together. To “sup” is to eat or drink, sip or swallow *slowly* (it takes time). I want to spend time with Jesus with whatever we share. I want to learn from him and just enjoy his company. I especially want to learn from him just how I should be living my life *now*, in the *present moment*, with whatever I am doing right now—be it household chores, or caring for another, or praying with and for others. Oh, there are so many situations in the world right now ... serious illness, wars and killings, droughts, fires, political strife, and just plain meanness at times.

And so, I ask the Lord to make sure that I do *hear Him* ... hear that tapping or louder knock. I want so much to be able to focus on the present moment, the *now*, the here, that I find myself in. Yes, I want to *hear Him*, but I also want *Him to hear me*.

I never liked that automobile bumper sticker from years ago when people interpreted this knocking on the as *Jesus is coming back, look busy*. I so much more feel that it is alright if I am resting or reading when that final knock on the door comes.

Patricia Oetting



Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

50 West Strawbridge Avenue

Melbourne, Florida 32901

www.holytrinitymelbourne.org