

Church News

Local pastors offer sermons

Divine Materials Part 3

The following prayer was penned by Scottish minister and theologian, John Baillie (1886-1960).

It is worthy of deliberation:

“Teach me, O God, so to use all the circumstances of my life today that they may bring forth in me the fruits of holiness rather than the fruits of sin.

Let me use disappointment as material for patience;

Let me use success as material for thankfulness;

Let me us suspense as material for perseverance;

Let me use danger as material for courage;

Let me use reproach as material for longsuffering;

Let me use praise as material for humility;

Let me use pleasures as material for temperance;

Let me use pains as material for endurance.”

This prayer is impacting, revealing that the circumstances of our lives serve as vehicles for spiritual growth or regression. Ultimately, we choose what we will make with the material God allows. Let us consider the following elements accordingly:

1) Let Me Use Success as Material for Thankfulness

We have the potential to react rather poorly to success. In fact, I posit that many handle poverty far better than riches (though we would all love to try success on for size). When did David, a man after God’s own heart, commit vile treachery? Was it when he was on the run from Saul in the wilderness or when he sat upon the throne of Israel?

What of Solomon? Did he fall prey to carnal delights at the start of his reign or when he was well-established? We do well to heed biblical warnings concerning success and the accumulation of material means! For instance, consider this timeless yet timely text:

1 Timothy 6:6b-10 (NIV)
6 . . . godliness with contentment is great gain.
7 For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.
8 But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.
9 Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.
10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

Yet success does not have to be a one-way ticket to diminishment. Success, rightly handled, can set the stage for the development of Christian virtues, including gratitude. As Baillie cried: “Let me use success as material for thankfulness.” Earlier, we noted that David yielded to temptation amid success (cf. 2 Sam. 11-12), yet this was not the end of his story. Rather, we see that years of serving God as the king of Israel would ultimately generate gratitude. Note this beloved text, widely-believed to be penned in

the latter years of David’s life. Does the following passage not abound with thankfulness?

Psalm 23
1 The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, 3 he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths for his name’s sake.

4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

6 Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Do you know success in this life? If so, take a knee before the One who made such elevation possible, thanking Him in kind. In the days to come we will continue to explore this prayer one segment at a time. Until next time, thank you for taking the time to read this publication.

Should you have any comments or questions, please feel free to contact me using the information below. Also, check us out online at www.NewLifeBarre.org or visit us each Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Pastor James Foley

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Twenty Second Sunday after Pentecost

Stewardship Sunday

“Praying Together.”

Scripture Reading: II Thessalonians 2 v 1-5 and 13 – 17 and John 17 v 20 - 23

I. Introduction

Whatever we do in our lives, if we act in a spirit of togetherness, and a common purpose, things usually work out, despite the occasional disagreement or struggles we face.

We see that in our home lives, our workplaces, community efforts and even here at our church. Coming together in a spirit of togetherness is what gives us strength, hope and faith to overcome challenges. God knew this from the beginning, so when the divine call came to those who led the people of Israel, they understood their mission was to keep the people together and close to God in prayer.

That was not easy, and so here we find ourselves in the New Testament when the Son of God and an apostle of God both offer their prayers for the church of God to be one with each other and with God.

II. How Paul and Jesus prayed for the believers in Christ

In our two scriptures we see how both Paul and

Jesus pray for the followers of Christ. Paul reminds the congregation in Thessalonica of the teaching about the Second Coming of Christ, the Day of the Lord. They must not be swayed by those who are deceiving them into believing that the Day of the Lord has already come. Nobody knows when that day will come.

They are experiencing the beginning of the Day of the Lord; in other words, they are on a journey to meet Christ when He returns. He then speaks about those who rebel against God, who are lawless and unwilling to submit themselves to the Holy One. In contrast to this lawlessness and rebellion against God, Paul wants the Thessalonians to know that he and his friends are thanking God for their salvation from sin, and the call they had received from God to be Body of Christ.

Given what they have been facing, he prays for them, because they cannot do the work of God through their own strength. Their source of strength is God. He prays that God will strengthen their hearts and their inner being, encourage them in their faith, and every every word they speak and work they undertake. They do not have to be concerned about those who walk around with evil intent, because God is their strength and hope, and that hope will endure until the coming Day of the Lord.

In John 17 we see how Jesus prayed for Himself, for His disciples and in our passage, for all believers, including us today. Jesus’ focus in this prayer for the believers is that they be one, the way He is one with God. That unity between the church and Christ and God is what gives the church its identity and purpose. The church belongs to God, and it exists because of the great act of reconciliation through Christ’s death and resurrection.

That is the nature of the church. He explains to God that He gave them God’s glory, meaning the manifestation of God’s essence, character, and presence. According to Edward Klink in his commentary on John, Jesus then asks God to consecrate them into the fullness of and oneness with God. This is not a oneness through human effort alone but is brought about by the Spirit of God and is therefore established through divine action.

III. Conclusion: Praying Together

Paul’s and Jesus’ prayers for God’s church are strong demonstrations of God’s love for believers worldwide. Their prayers demonstrate also the purpose of God with the church, that the church will be one, together in love and prayer and service. It is a unity by the Spirit of God, always dwelling among us. Who wants to enter our very beings, and Who wants to

See SERMONS, page 14

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts’ public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

Public Notices

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. WO25P3766GD
In the matter of:
Alexander M. Alfaro Acosta of Barre, MA
RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated Person
CITATION GIVING
NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, Section 5-304

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Department of Children and Families of Burlington, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Alexander M. Alfaro Acosta is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Department of Children and Families of Burlington, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 AM on the return date of 12/02/2025.

This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person’s right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.

Date: October 29, 2025

Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate
11/13/2025

PUBLIC AUCTION
NOTICE IS HEREBY
GIVEN PURSUANT TO
THE PROVISIONS OF
M.L.C. 225 SEC.39A
THE FOLLOWING
VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD
ON November 22, 2025
AT A SALE TO
SATISFY OUR GARAGE
LIEN THEREON
FOR TOWING & STORAGE
CHARGES AND EXPENSES
OF SALE AND NOTICE:

2012 Nissan Pathfinder
VIN: 5N1AR1NB9CC609886
2004 GMC Sierra 1500
VIN: 1GTEK14T14Z173876
2008 Toyota Camry
VIN: 4T1BE46K48U779834
2021 Toyota Corolla
VIN: 5YFP4MCE0MP061488
2009 Dodge Durango
VIN: 4T4BE46K49R137072
2012 Ford Explorer
VIN: 1FMHK8D86CGA58519
2008 Dodge Ram
VIN: 1D8HB58N28F149563
2007 Honda Civic
VIN: 1HGFA16567L031277
2005 Ford F-350 Super Duty
VIN: 1FTWX31515EC34207
2023 Yamaha R1
VIN: JYARN66E5PA003233
The sale will be held at
Early’s on Park Avenue
536 Park Ave.
Worcester MA 0160
11/06, 11/13, 11/20/2025

Town of Barre PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Tax Classification Hearing
TAKE NOTICE that the Select Board will conduct a Public Hearing on Monday, November 17, 2025 at 5:30PM in the Select Board’s Meeting Room at the Henry Woods Building, 40 West Street, Barre, MA for the purpose of selecting a residential factor, which will determine the percentages of tax burden to be borne for each class of property for fiscal year 2026. Persons wishing to comment may do so at that time. The Board will also consider written comments received prior to the hearing.

For the Select Board:
Melanie Jackson
11/06, 11/13/2025

Operation Christmas Child Nov. runs 17-24

Volunteers are preparing to collect Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts during National Collection Week, Nov. 17 - 24.

Nearly 5,000 drop-off locations will open across the country in November and shoebox packers can find their local drop-off locations in Massachusetts by visiting <https://www.samaritanpurse.org>.

Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has been collecting and delivering gift-filled shoeboxes to children including many who are suffering from war, poverty, disease and disaster. Operation Christmas Child hopes to reach another 12 million children in 2025.

Shoebox packing is fun for individuals, families and groups. People may find a step-by-step guide on the How to Pack a Shoebox webpage. The project partners with local churches across the globe to deliver these tangible expressions of God’s love to children in need. Participants can donate \$10 per shoebox gift online through “Follow Your Box” and receive a tracking label to discover its destination.

“Samaritan’s Purse works around the world to help people in need, but it’s not about good works;

it’s about the Gospel,” said Franklin Graham, president of Samaritan’s Purse. “Please prayerfully consider packing a shoebox this year with Operation Christmas Child. These simple gifts open the door for us to share the true meaning of Christmas.”

Participants can find the nearest drop-off location and hours of operation as they make plans to drop off their shoebox gifts. The online look-up tool is searchable by City or ZIP code. Signs at each location will identify the drop-off. Local locations include Athol-Orange Baptist Church, 131 Ridge Avenue, Athol; Bethany Baptist Church, 72

Ryan St., Gardner; Christ Community Church, 1255 Federal St. Belchertown; Grace Baptist Church, 10 Stanley Road, Shrewsbury and Greenville Baptist Church, 674 Pleasant St., Rochdale.

Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan’s Purse, seeks to demonstrate God’s love in a tangible way to children in need around the world and, together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 232 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 170 countries and territories.

Barre Gazette

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.



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