

Trinity United Methodist Church

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Prayer Ministries of TUMC offers this monthly brochure to our congregation and a circle of interested others as a compact source of daily meditations. We hope the language and the images—the articulations both ancient and modern—will bless you, awaken you, stir your imagination, open you to Sacred Mystery, help you commit to the kind of wholeness that Jesus taught and modeled, and equip you for the daily living of our church's mission statement:

Know God. Be transformed. Love.

June 2018

Angels Among Us

Friday, June 1

Believers, look up—take courage. The angels are nearer than you think.

Billy Graham

Saturday, June 2

Outside the open window
the morning air is all awash with angels.

Richard Wilbur,
"Love Calls Us to the Things of This World"

Sunday, June 3

Every blade of grass has an angel that bends
over it and whispers, "Grow! Grow!"

Talmud

Monday, June 4

Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you for us or for our enemies?" "Neither," he replied, "but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come." Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and

asked him, "What message does my Lord have for his servant?" The commander of the Lord's army replied, "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.

Joshua 5:13-15

Tuesday, June 5

Rank on rank the host of heaven / spreads its
vanguard on the way / as the Light of light
descendeth / from the realms of endless day /
that the powers of hell may vanish / as the
darkness clears away.

Liturgy of St. James, 4th century, hymn #626

Wednesday, June 6

Bless the Lord, you his angels,
mighty in strength, who perform his word,
obeying the voice of his word!
Bless the Lord, O my soul!

Psalms 103:20, 22b

Thursday, June 7

Because you have made the Lord your dwelling
place—the Most High, who is my refuge—
no evil shall be allowed to befall you,
no plague come near your tent.
For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.
On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.

Psalms 91:9-13

Friday, June 8

Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, while he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness. He came to a broom bush, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, Lord," he said. "Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors." Then he lay down under the bush and fell asleep. All at once an angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat." He looked around, and there by his head was some bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down

again. The angel of the Lord came back a second time and touched him and said, "Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you." So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God. There he went into a cave and spent the night.

1 Kings 19:3-9

Saturday, June 9

Sleep my child and peace attend thee
All through the night
Guardian angels God will send thee
All through the night.

Welsh lullaby

Sunday, June 10

Music is well said to be the speech of angels.

Thomas Carlyle

Monday, June 11

We shall find peace. We shall hear angels,
we shall see the sky sparkling with diamonds.

Anton Chekhov

Tuesday, June 12

God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee ... Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered... But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary..."

Luke 1

Wednesday, June 13

An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you news of great joy that will be for all the people."

Luke 2:9-10

Thursday, June 14

Angels: Radiant messengers from God—
"Do not be afraid."

"I am here with good news."

"I am here with alarming news."

"I am here to help you bear what must be borne."

"I am here with your next assignment."

So they are described in our Bible.

Friday, June 15

And when I heard and saw,
I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who
showed me these things. And he said to me,
“Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours.
Worship God.”

Revelation 22:8-9

Saturday, June 16

It is not because angels are holier than men or
devils that makes them angels, but because they
do not expect holiness from one another,
but from God only.

William Blake

Sunday, June 17

Angels are spirits, flames of fire; they are higher
than man, they have wider connections.

Matthew Simpson

Monday, June 18

Then Jesus said to him, “Begone, Satan!
For it is written,
‘You shall worship the Lord your God,
and serve him only.’”
Then the devil left him; and behold,
angels came
and began to minister to him.

Matthew 4:10-11

Tuesday, June 19

And he withdrew from them about a stone’s
throw, and he knelt down and began to pray ...
Now an angel from heaven appeared to him,
strengthening him. And being in anguish, he
prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like
drops of blood falling to the ground.

Luke 22:41, 43-44

Wednesday, June 20

In the dreadful desert, where the Lord was tried,
there the faithful angels gathered at his side;
and when, in the garden, grief and pain and care
bowed him down with anguish,
they were with him there.

Phillips Brooks

Thursday, June 21

I suppose that if the glory of God is a human fully
alive, then part of the fullness has to be (or at any
rate is) horrible pain. And in that pain, or so we
hope and imagine, the angels of the Desert and
Gethsemane and other dire places are still
around, offering sips and morsels of what we
need to resume giving our utmost for God’s
highest. Women and men of sorrows, well
acquainted with grief. Also, ever-open to new life:
After loss, I think I will not smile or laugh
again. And yet I do!

Friday, June 22

“On their hands they will bear you up.”
I have thought a lot about the idea of two
complementary aspects of “bear”: to hold up or
support, and to give birth to. I am more and more
convinced that established practices bear us up
so we may bear good fruit
and birth new expressions of love.

a member of TUMC Prayer Ministries

Saturday, June 23

It is by suffering that human beings
become angels.

Victor Hugo

Sunday, June 24

And as they were gazing intently into the sky
while he was departing, behold, two men in white
clothing stood beside them; and they also said,
“Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the
sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from
you into heaven, will come in just the same way
as you have watched him go into heaven.”

Acts 1:10-11

Monday, June 25

And behold, an angel of the Lord suddenly
appeared, and a light shone in the cell; and he
struck Peter’s side and roused him, saying,
“Get up quickly. “And his chains fell off his hands.
And the angel said to him,
“Gird yourself and put on your sandals.”
And he did so. And he said to him,
“Wrap your cloak around you and follow me.”

Acts 12:7-8

Tuesday, June 26

And another angel came and stood at the altar,
holding a golden censer; and much incense was
given to him, that he might add it to the prayers
of all the saints. And the smoke of the incense,
with the prayers of the saints, went up before God
out of the angel’s hand.

Revelation 8:3-4

Wednesday, June 27

Angels open our eyes. They teach us what to
fear, and how to praise. Holy, holy, holy.

Thursday, June 28

“Who, if I cried out, would hear me among the
angels’ hierarchies? and even if one of them
pressed me suddenly against his heart: I would
be consumed in that overwhelming existence. For
beauty is nothing but the beginning of terror,
which we are still just able to endure, and we are
so awed because it serenely disdains to
annihilate us. Every angel is terrifying. And so I
hold myself back and swallow the call-note of my
dark sobbing.”

Duino Elegies, 1st Elegy, Rainer Maria Rilke
(translated by Stephen Mitchell)

Friday, June 29

Now cracks a noble heart.—
Good night, sweet prince,
and flights of angels sing thee to thy rest!

William Shakespeare, “Hamlet”, Act 5

Saturday, June 30

When I die, I shall soar with angels,
and when I die to the angels, what I shall become
you cannot imagine.

Rumi

