

*Nurturing Faith...
Every Day in Every Way*

July 2, 2017

Fourth Sunday of Pentecost

Jeremiah 28:5-9

Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18

Romans 6:12-23

Matthew 10:40-42



Welcome. Object: A "welcome mat".

Have you ever seen one of these? Where have you seen something like this? Usually we'd see a mat like this outside our homes. A mat such as this one usually has two purposes. Can you tell me what those two purposes are?

Well, for one thing, it's used to encourage people to wipe the shoes off so that they won't track dirt or mud into your home or business. And, they are placed outside your door as a sign to let people know that they are welcome to come in.

What does "welcome" mean? It means that you are happy that someone came.

How about in our churches? Do you think that people are always welcome at our church home? Do we speak to those people who are visiting our church that we do not know? If someone comes to our church and they are dressed different from the way we are dressed, do we make sure that they are made to feel welcome? Do we welcome people into our church if their skin is a different color from ours? Do we welcome people into our church if they don't have as much money as we do?

Jesus said, "He who receives you receives me." We understand that if we do not welcome others into our homes and into our churches, it is the same as if we are refusing to welcome Jesus.

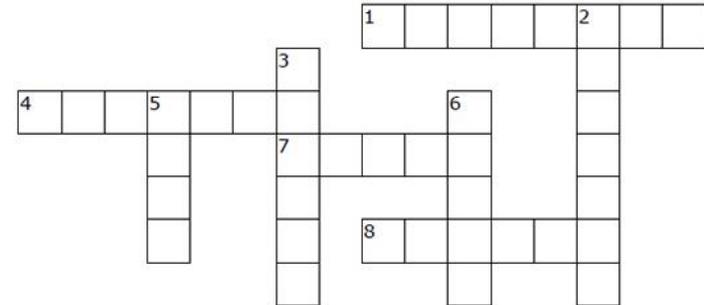
Well, let's put the welcome mat out -- and let's be sure that we mean it!

Dear Father, help us to remember that when we refuse to welcome others to our homes and to our church, it is the same as refusing to welcome you. Amen.

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Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. You are the chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of the one who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Alleluia. (1 Peter 2:9)

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

WELCOME MAT: Provide the child with a piece of heavy construction paper and supplies to decorate their own welcome mat. The child can write parts of the Bible verse or "LEARNING TO WELCOME OTHERS IS THE SAME AS WELCOMING GOD". The child could also draw pictures of other nationalities on their welcome mat and place in front of their bedroom door.

THUMBPRINT CHILDREN: Let the child press a finger or a thumb into several colored ink pads and stamp on a piece of paper. Have the child draw faces on each print and then add arms and legs. The child can write over the top of their thumbprint children -- ALL ARE WELCOME HERE!



I CAN MAKE OTHERS FEEL
WELCOME BY BEING FRIENDLY.

