

Unforeseen Circumstances Bring Unexpected Blessings
The Third Sunday of Advent - Christ Church Georgetown
The Right Reverend Carl Walter Wright

-Here we are – sadly in Unforeseen Circumstances:

- -A global pandemic of biblical proportions
- -Our dearly beloved Bishop Mariann is under the weather today, which is why you “wound-up” with me...
- -Worse, we cannot worship GOD as we please. We’d always been taught that America is a free country and the Bill of Rights allows us to be free. But now we face an enemy that has superseded anything the Constitution could have foreseen
- -Many, many Unforeseen Circumstances in this Year of Our Lord 2020

-YET, with every unforeseen circumstance I suggest there have been Unexpected Blessings!

- -For instance, the pandemic may be with us awhile longer, but we can thank GOD for the manufacturers who have “moved heaven and earth” to come-up with vaccines. And Lord Willing we will all be delivered in due course of time.
- -And, again, in spite of these trying times and Unforeseen Circumstances, I for one have made an exercise of counting my blessings and suggest you do the same!
 - o Our health and strength; our families and friends; the rooves over our heads; our ability to pray and praise GOD; our recognition of things we barely paid attention to BEFORE the corona-virus. We have so many blessings too numerous to count. But we should!
- An unknown author penned these words:

“We forget these things too soon...
That other men died to keep us free,
That Christian ideals created freedom,
That our children cannot live by bread alone,
That a nation can be no stronger than its faith,
That our future can be no greater than our vision,
That the quality of our daily work is a measure of our character.
We forget these things too soon.
YET WHO WILL REMEMBER IF WE FORGET?”

-We must brave these Unforeseen Circumstances CONFIDENT that Almighty God will bring us safely to the other side, and that we will be the richer for it!

-Now, speaking of Unforeseen Circumstances, let me remind you of Joseph, God's servant. YOU may recall him from Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat." Joseph and his coat of many colours. But remember also that Joseph was a real person from whom we can learn.

-I like to call it the "Joseph Story"...the Joseph Story is one of the most compelling of Unforeseen Circumstances turning into Unexpected Blessings. You will recall that Genesis Chapter 50 tells us that Joseph was a young man of promise. But his brothers became jealous of him, and after many other ways of hurting him, Joseph's brother finally tricked him into a far-off place and buried him alive.

-I cannot do justice to this story. But, for today's purposes I must spoil the plot! After many unspeakable trials and tribulations, Joseph survived. And better yet, another race of people recognised the gifts and abilities of Joseph, which his own family rejected. And to cut a long story short, by GOD's grace, Joseph rose to one of the highest positions in the land!

-For Joseph, GOD most definitely brought unexpected blessings from unforeseen circumstances! Years later, Joseph's evil brothers were visiting the foreign land and found themselves standing before their brother whom they thought they'd gotten rid of! And true to human form, they actually tried to negotiate with Joseph to receive his forgiveness for what they had done. Then Joseph responds to his brothers with one of the most moving sayings in the Bible. Don't worry. You have forgiveness because I now know that I am a living example that "what MAN intended for evil, GOD intended for good (Genesis 50:20)!"

-My Friends: if you stop to think of it, WE EACH AND ALL HAVE OUR OWN JOSEPH STORIES. WE ARE ALL BLESSED. IN THE WORDS OF THE SPIRITUAL, WE HAVE ALL COME A MIGHT LONG WAYS. WE HAVE ALL EXPERIENCED TOTALLY UNFORSEEN CIRCUMSTANCES THAT GAVE BRITH TO UNEXPECTED BLESSINGS!

-So, my dear Confirmands. GOD sent me here to-day to bring you this message. He is a GOD of unexpected and plentiful blessings. These blessings frequently come at the worst possible times and in the worst possible ways. Let us thank GOD for the faith He has planted in us and serve Him all our days!