

## SERMON NOTES

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Christmas, Year B \* January 3, 2021

Sermon by the Reverend Tom Rutherford

Jeremiah 31:7-14 \* Psalm 84 \* Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a \*

Luke 2:41-52

### Marriage

Happy are they who dwell in God's household! Psalm 84:3

Praise be to God, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing. Ephesians 1:3

God loves you and has a H\_\_\_\_\_ and a F\_\_\_\_\_ for you.

From *The Book of Common Prayer*, p. 423: We have come together in the presence of God to witness and bless the joining together of this man and this woman in Holy Matrimony. The bond and covenant of marriage was established by God in creation, and our Lord Jesus Christ adorned this manner of life by his presence and first miracle at a wedding in Cana of Galilee. It signifies to us the mystery of the union between Christ and his Church, and Holy Scripture commends it to be honored among all people.

✦ There's nothing closer to H\_\_\_\_\_ than a good marriage,

and nothing closer to H\_\_\_\_\_ than a bad one.

The union of husband and wife in heart, body, and mind is intended by God for their mutual joy; for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity; and, when it is God's will, for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord. Therefore marriage is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted by God.

### Next Week's Lessons

Genesis 1:1-5 \* Psalm 29 \* Acts 19:1-7 \* Mark 1:4-11

## Chewing on Our Daily Bread

Questions for conversation with your family, Home Group, or a friend

1. What is something you like about the family you grew up in? What is something you like about your family now?
2. How does the Messiah family act like a family to you? Or not?
3. If you're married – or ever have been – what is something you like(d) about being married? If you're not married, what is something you like about being single?
4. If you're married – or ever have been – how has God blessed you through your spouse? If you're not married, how have you seen married couples bless each other?
5. PRAY:
  - ✦ Thanking God for the families he's given you.
  - ✦ For grace to bless your spouse, if you're married; or to bless a married couple if you aren't.
  - ✦ For any needs in your group.

