

## When Words Fail Psalm 6

Does a broken prayer still work? Can God understand us, even when we can't find the words that say what we think and feel? We've all had such prayers; ones that just don't say what we want, that don't sound/feel as though we've made ourselves understood. When those prayers happen, will God still "get us?" Psalm six can help us answer that question, along with a little help from the Apostle Paul.

How often we struggle with our prayers. We want God to understand us; to know how we really feel, the depths of our thoughts and emotions. We worry that if we can't quite say it as we fully mean it, God might not understand; might not understand just how afflicted we are, or how urgent is our cause, or how honest is our reasoning. And, if we can't get it right, then we worry: God, we think, just might not answer in the way we need.

In our Psalm this day, Psalm 6, (the first of the "Sorrowful Seven"), the Psalmist is struggling for the right words, when suddenly, words literally fail. It happens in verse 3. It's not as clear in the Prayerbook translation as it is in the NRSV, but it can still be detected. After laying out the preceding verses with mounting reasons for the need of deliverance, the Psalmist begs for God to intervene. The verse reads, "My soul also is struck with terror, while you, O Lord---how long?"

To this point, the Psalmist has "held it together." The rhythm of the poetry and stanzas is working, the rhyming at the end of each line (in the Hebrew) is successfully happening, then--then, it all falls apart. No rhyme, no rhythm; even the syntax of language itself disintegrates. The Psalmist is at a complete loss for words. He is at the impossible point of trying to express

Psalms where this happens, where words truly fail.

The effect of this on the Psalmist is good, though. He changes direction and immediately gets to the point, blurting out, "Turn, O lord, save my life;". Actually, we don't know if this is a desperate shout, with hands uplifted in an agitated cry, or a hushed whisper from a soul completely spent. Some of you, perhaps all of us, together, have been in this place; maybe even sending out the desperate shout and the spent whisper simultaneously in the deep prayer of our souls. And, we wonder, "Has God heard this? Does God understand? Even when I can't think it straight, much less say it?"

Here is God's answer to our question. It comes from the eighth chapter of Paul's letter to the Romans. "Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs (and "groans" KJV) too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God." (Rom 8:26-27 NRSV)

Even the Psalmist seems to understand this. For a few verses further on from his broken words he says, "for the Lord has heard the sound of my weeping...the Lord accepts my prayer." His weeping, moaning, and tears have been the deepest part of the prayer. What Paul is telling us, what the Psalmist already understands, is that God does hear and understand us even when we cannot fully understand ourselves. We need have no fear for God's understanding of us. God will always hear us and "get us" in our prayers.

Fr. Rick



## Two Women Who Helped Found, and Fund, St. John's Chapel

*By Elizabeth and Richard Barratt, St. John's Historians*

*"Instead of the usual Saturday night hop at Hotel Del Monte, an evening entertainment consisting of tableaux vivants and music, has been arranged by several of the guests, to take place next Saturday evening at eight o'clock. The proceeds of the affair will be applied toward a fund to be used in the contemplated erection of a new chapel near the Hotel Del Monte." Daily Alta California, July 12, 1886*

We often learn that Charles Crocker, with input from Collis P. Huntington, was the major impetus to establish St. John's Chapel on the Hotel Del Monte grounds. The chapel was originally intended to serve Episcopalian guests, many of whom were wealthy San Franciscans.



*Harriet Crocker Alexander, Daughter of Charles Crocker and her family*

But along with Crocker and Huntington, two ladies stepped in: Charles Crocker's daughter, Harriet (Hattie) Valentine Crocker Alexander (1859-1935), and her future sister-in-law, the widowed Emma (Mrs. Alexander) Rutherford. The ladies seemed destined to do good works, and taking on promoting St. John's Chapel was one of them. Efforts included sponsoring musicales and tableaux to raise funds for the chapel, as reported above.

Harriet Crocker was born in Sacramento and later lived in San Francisco. She was educated in Geneva, Switzerland, and in young adulthood became a world traveler, making five trips to Europe and a voyage around the globe. Her social connections granted her a royal appearance when she was presented in 1884 at the Court of St. James.

Returning to reside in California, she was married at age 27 to prominent lawyer, Charles B. Alexander (1849-1927) of the New York firm, Alexander and Green. Upon her wedding at Grace Church (now Cathedral) the April 27, 1887, San Francisco Chronicle noted that she was "Known for her deeds of charity...especially in church and religious matters...her whole life has been a series of good actions done and accomplished for the sake of pleasure and of doing good." Following their wedding, the couple departed for New York City and lived in Manhattan where their three daughters were born.

A later good deed, reported in the May 12, 1907, Monterey Daily Cypress, had been Harriet's efforts to persuade the Pacific Improvement Company to donate the land and buildings for the original Pacific Grove Museum. Harriet died in Paris in 1935 and is buried in Princeton, New Jersey.

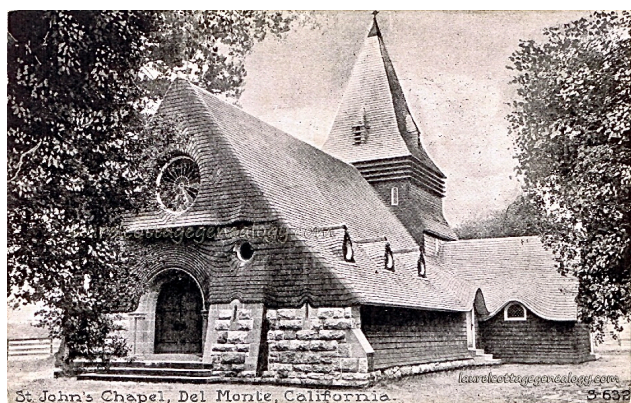
Harriet's friend and future sister-in-law, Emma Hanchett Rutherford (1855-1904), was born in Nevada City, grew up in San Jose and in 1872 married mining expert Alexander Hitchcock Rutherford (1835-1893), who held large mining interests. The couple lived and raised their four children on Bush Street in San Francisco, where they were members of high society. Emma's involvement in the planning and support of St. John's Chapel building efforts may have also spurred her August 4, 1890, purchase of two lots on the corner of Park and Fourth Streets in Monterey's newly developing Oak Grove section. An auction brochure of the time noted that many affluent Monterey families had purchased lots in Oak Grove, as had employees of the Hotel Del Monte. Given its proximity to the hotel, ownership of the property also offered access to the hotel's bathhouse, clubhouse and golf course. In 1894, a



*Emma Rutherford Crocker, Harriet's friend and sister-in-law*

*Continued on page 3*





Early postcard view of St. John's Chapel

year after her husband's death, Emma married Charles Crocker's banker son, George (1856-1909) and the pair moved to Manhattan. She died in Sacramento and is buried in Oakland.

We continue to be thankful today, that, beginning nearly 139 years ago with their early fund raisers, two women made it possible for St. John's Chapel to exist. Our chapel continues to welcome worshippers today, in part due to the efforts of those early saints who had the vision to help make it happen.

## St. John's Chapel, Del Monte July 2025 Schedule

Date	Activity	Notes
<b>July 6</b> Trinity 3	<b>10:00 AM - Holy Communion</b>	<b>Fr. Rick Miles Presiding</b>
<b>July 13</b> Trinity 4	<b>10:00 AM - Holy Communion</b> <b>11:30 AM – Vestry Meeting</b>	<b>Fr. Rick Miles Presiding</b> <b>Centennial Hall</b>
<b>July 20</b> Trinity 5	<b>10:00 AM – Morning Prayer</b>	<b>Licensed Lay Reader</b> <b>Conducting</b>
<b>July 27</b> Trinity 6	<b>10:00 AM – Morning Prayer</b>	<b>Licensed Lay Reader</b> <b>Conducting</b>

### St. John's Chapel, Del Monte & Our Military Connection



David Jones, longtime member of our congregation, is undertaking the daunting task of chronicling the members of St. John's who have served in the military. Our connection to the military goes back even before the US Navy acquired the Del Monte Hotel. David is asking everyone in the congregation to search their memories and provide him with names and any history you might have. He can be reached at [davedianel@comcast.net](mailto:davedianel@comcast.net), or you're welcome to chat with him during "coffee hour" after service on Sundays.

**Altar Flowers:** The Flower Chart is in its usual place in the Parish Hall. Reserve those important dates now. Costs are \$30.00 for regular seasonal flowers, greenery and candles, OR \$40.00 for roses.





## **THE BENEFIT SHOP ACCEPTS**

Clean, gently used clothing  
Clean, working small appliances  
Clean Kitchen items  
Chinaware, Glassware  
CDs and DVDs  
Knick knacks and bric-a-brac  
Small furniture items in good condition  
Art and Art objects  
Holiday items  
Jewelry

## **WE DO NOT ACCEPT**

**ELECTRONICS:** such as MEDICAL EQUIPMENT, PRINTERS, COPIERS, LAPTOPS, CELL PHONES, TELEVISIONS, OR COMPUTERS.

Soiled or worn-out clothing or shoes  
Cassettes or VHS videos  
Non-working small appliances  
Broken, chipped, or cracked items  
Worn kitchen ware  
Broken jewelry or watches  
Mattresses

***Please Note: We do not have the woman-power to dispose of unsaleable items.***

***Please do not leave items at the gate, it is unlawful.***

### **St. John's Chapel Current Financial Encapsulation**

<b>Income (1/1 - 6/18/25)</b>	<b>\$ 69,647.29</b>
<b>Expenses (1/1 - 6/18/25)</b>	<b>\$101,949.58</b>
<b>Bottom Line (+/-)</b>	<b>\$ 32,302.29</b>

### **Volunteers Needed for All Ministry Areas**

We need help in all ministry areas including acolytes, altar guild, lay readers, and ushers. If you're able to assist even one Sunday a month please contact the Church Office at (831) 375-4463

### **Can You Help St. John's Cut Expenses?**

Dear Parishioners,

We are always in need of extra toilet paper and paper towel supplies. If you're shopping at COSTCO or another big box store, would you please pick up a packet of these items and bring them to church on Sunday? These small donations really add up in helping the Chapel defray extra expenses. Thanks so much for your help!





IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

# The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. — We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. — Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world. — He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good. — He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them. — He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only. — He has called together legislative Bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures. — He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people. — He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of Invasion from without, and convulsions within. — He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Law for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands. — He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing judicial powers. — He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries. — He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance. — He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our Legislatures. — He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power. — He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and an acknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended legislation: — For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us: — For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States: — For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world: — For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent: — For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by jury: — For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences: — For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies: — For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments: — For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever. — He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us. — He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people. — He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & Opprobrium scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation. — He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands. — He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the Inhabitants of one portion the merciless Indian savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions. In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered by repeated injury. A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people. Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their Legislature to extend an unwarrantable Jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which would interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of conciliatory. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be, Free and Independent States; that they are absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. — And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the Protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

Boston, Gwinnett  
Lynch, Hall  
Geo. Walton.

John Hancock  
Joseph Hewes,  
John Penn

Edward Rutledge.

Thos. Mifflin  
Thomas Lynch  
Arthur Middleton

Samuel Chase  
Wm. Paca  
Thos. Stone  
Giles Coates

George Wythe  
Richard Henry Lee  
Th. Jefferson  
Perry Harrison  
Th. Wilson  
Charles Bracken

John Hancock  
Benjamin Rush  
Benjamin Franklin  
John Morton

Geo. Taylor  
James Wilson  
Geo. Ross  
Casar Rodney  
John Mifflin  
Thos. Mifflin

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### Editorial Policy

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