

**"The Way of Jesus is the Way of Life and the Way of Life can change the world."**

Bishop Curry

*[L]et your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16*

*Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name. Psalm 64:4*

When I read verse 4 of Psalm 63, I immediately thought of a story a very good friend of mine (I'll call him "John") told me 15 years ago.

John worships at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in San Antonio. St. Luke's is one of the largest Churches in our Diocese in a very nice part of San Antonio. He regularly attended the early service on Sunday mornings. He told me that he always felt a little strange when he worshipped because he frequently raised his hands in praise and joy during the service. He said he was the only person who raised his hands and he felt like everyone stared at him when he raised his hands. He switched services for a while and when he returned, one of the matriarchs of the early service told him that he was greatly missed. John told her that he thought they would be relieved not to be disturbed by his raised hands during parts of the service. She told John that that was what she missed the most. She said she didn't feel comfortable raising her hands but his outward expression of his faith inspired her and brought joy to her.

A quote attributed to St. Teresa of Ávila speaks to this:

Christ has no body but yours,  
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,  
Yours are the eyes with which He looks compassion on this world,  
Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good,  
Yours are the hands, with which He blesses all the world.  
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,  
Yours are the eyes, you are His body.  
Christ has no body now but yours,  
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,  
Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world.  
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

When we offer to pray for someone, show kindness to a stranger or a loved one, or demonstrate humility in the ways in which we live; we inspire those around us. Whatever way our faith manifests itself in our lives is a ministry. God will take our ministry and make it good ... all the time.