

Lay Preachers' Bulletin - February 2020

February's lectionary notes have been provided by The Rev. Deacon Charmaine Evans, St. Stephen's, Calgary.

February 2, 2020 - Epiphany 4

Luke 2:22-40

Jesus presentation at the Temple

- We are witness to Mary and Joseph demonstrating their constant relationship with God by observing the law as prescribed in the Torah. We see family societal and religious traditions upheld. What are your family traditions? How do they emphasis your relationship with God?
- As a parish community we observe the passages in the life of the Church, in what ways do we proclaim the gospel and strengthen our faith in Christ? Simeon- devout, honourable and Anna- old, a prophet both are filled with the Holy Spirit recognizes the child Jesus as the Messiah. How may we value the wisdom of our elders and model their patience in our faith as we wait upon the Lord to reveal his truth to us?
- We receive a glimpse into the childhood of Jesus growing strong, wise and filled with the Spirit. Are we able to value the children in our lives with their open hearts and trust in God?

February 9, 2020 - Epiphany 5

Matthew 5: 13-20

Teachings of Jesus

- “You are the salt” Jesus calls us individually and separately from others. Is there a moment where you experienced Gods call or was it a slow growing awareness?
- “You are the light of the world” another personal directive for the followers of Jesus. Light functions for the world to see. We receive our light from our relationship with God. How do we let our light shine?
Light that is hidden, like salt that is not used does not serve our God or the world in which we live. How can we be transformative in the world in which we live?
- Jesus clearly has respect for the law, as it is intended to help people live in harmony with God and enjoy his blessings however Jesus is not literal in his interpretation of the law. The laws intent is to teach us to love one another and God. In our daily lives how may we use the law, bible and our beliefs to love one another?

February 16, 2020 – Epiphany 6

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Apostles as Servants of the Lord

- This is a letter to the people of the church in Corinth. The people of the church are in conflict with one another. Paul had founded the church and Apollos had provided pastoral support and leadership following Paul’s departure. What we see is a not a spiritually mature people, but people rather concerned about words or the physical place. What happens when our own values and beliefs are more important than our spiritual relationships?

- Paul makes use of language to help redirect the people of Corinth, he calls them brother and sisters in Christ, and he reminds them they have not spiritual matured, they are as babes without depth of relationship. Where may our faith fail to discern what is childlike and how can we contribute to a more mature and reasoned faith?
- One of the metaphors Paul uses is that of a Garden. Farmers and Gardeners alike know that planting the seeds, watering and perhaps fertilizing and having sunshine contribute to the wellbeing of the plant. Who makes the plant seeds become rooted and grow, what is most important?
The second metaphor Paul uses is that of a builder and calls upon the people to build with care as a builder of the Anglican church communion, do we how we live out our oneness in Christ?

February 23, 2020 - Last Sunday in Epiphany

Matthew 17: 1-9

Transfiguration of Jesus

- What does this mountain top experience of the disciples, Jesus with Moses and Elijah reveal about Jesus and the path he is to take?
The mountain could be any place traditionally it symbolized where heaven and earth meet. What would it mean for us individually to have a mountain top experience with God?
- Peter in the story is moved to action to provide hospitality and care for those present however God speaks and reminds them to listen? When do we listen to God in our lives?
After this experience of the mountain top they return to the daily round of their work. What does this teach us about the value of our lives in ordinary time?

