

March 21, 2017

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Our Lenten journey is now about half complete. Yesterday and today, I have been working on this Sunday's message and I have been struck by the power of these conversations that we have been looking at over the past several weeks in worship. Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus. Jesus' conversation with the unnamed Samaritan woman at the well. And this Sunday's conversation and healing by Jesus and the man born blind. In each of the conversations there is a tension that grows out of darkness, not understanding, not having faith, not feeling worthy, and simply going about life not expecting anything to happen.

Jesus listened, accepted each person, and helped them realize that they could evolve into something greater than they ever imagined. Each person moved from darkness to light, unknowing to knowing, having little faith to having a faith so vivid they bowed and knelt with joy and worshiped Jesus.

This is what Lent is all about. Our journey begins with recognizing, that even though we try to imitate Christ, we often miss the mark. We are in constant need to repent, and in repenting we turn back to face God, and receive God's forgiveness. God's forgiveness is marvelous and life giving. God's forgiveness changes us.

Remember back at the beginning of Lent, I wrote that the tradition of Lent was to give up something that you enjoyed? Then I suggested instead of giving up something, why not add something that you do not usually do? It could be more prayer time, more faithful Bible study, adding more random acts of kindness to those you meet. For myself, I decided to attend 8:15 AM Mass at Mater Christi, Mondays through Thursdays. It has been really hard getting up an hour earlier – going to bed an hour earlier is even harder! And the days become even longer when I have late afternoon or evening meetings. But I have to say my days have been enriched having heard God's Word and participated in the prayers. I have begun each day knowing in my heart that I am forgiven and loved by God – that changes the way I work, think, and live. I would love to hear about your Lenten experiences!

Palm Sunday is on April 9, we will have our one worship service at 10:00 AM.

Maundy Thursday is April 13, we will have services at 1:00 and 7:00 PM.

Good Friday is April 14, we will have services at 1:00 and 7:00 PM.

Easter is April 16, we will have services at 8:00 (with Communion) and 10:00 AM.

Be encouraged to attend as many services as you can, each will have a different message. How you arrive at Easter depends on your Lenten journey and walking with Jesus during his last days in human form.

Lenten Blessings to All,  
*Pastor Peggy*