

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# REPENT & BELIEVE

Daily Lenten Scriptures and Prayers  
Feb 15-17



## THURSDAY, FEB 15, MARK 9:30-35

"They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all."

## PRAYER

At the outset of lent, give me a humble heart, a heart that is willing to admit to my shortcomings and mistakes. A heart longing to grow and change. A heart that seeks to serve others before myself. For these forty days, help me to put aside the part of myself that calls for attention, acknowledgement, and prestige. Help me, O God, to be inspired by Jesus and learn once again what it means to love you and my neighbor. Amen.

## What's so good about lent?

"In lent we hold space for joy and sadness at the same time"

Rose Koepp

**FRIDAY, FEB 16, MARK 9: 42-50**

"If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

"For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

**PRAYER**

I think, O God, that I understand the point Jesus is trying to make, even if it does frighten me a little. I should be willing to remove the parts of myself and of my life that keep me from following your ways. Perhaps during lent, I will discover what those parts may be, but I will need courage, nurture, and wisdom to actually remove them from my habits and routines. I confess, O God, that I sometimes avoid the harsh words, the words that ask me to prune and remove. Help me, gracious Lord, to see the blossom that can emerge from such things. Amen.

**SATURDAY, FEB 17, MARK 10:13-16**

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

**PRAYER**

If the last shall be first, then it makes sense that your kingdom belongs to children. Children have little power, control, or influence over the world. They really are at the mercy of others. They live, learn, and grow by the generosity of those around them. You, O God, ask me to see the world differently. You insist that your kingdom operates by different norms: the last are first, the vulnerable are a treasure. Help me, O God, to see the world the way that you do. Amen.