

Being the Church in Christ:

Wisdom from Pastor Paul

(The Brentwood Sermon Series for 2015)

Memorize & Ponder Text – 1 Cor 15:1-2a

(Full Reading – 1 Cor 15:1-11)

Week of Nov 1-8, 2015

Jesus is Lord so We Can Live in Peace

1 Corinthians 1:1-2a (NRSV)

I would remind you, brothers and sisters,
of the good news that I proclaimed to you,
which you in turn received,
in which you stand,
through which also you are being saved.

*Throughout 2015, the Christian community at Brentwood Presbyterian Church will be considering how to be the church in Jesus Christ, guided by the wisdom of Pastor Paul. We invite you to **listen** for what the Spirit is saying in the text, then **question** how those insights might change the ways you see things and act in the world. Share your thoughts during the week on the meaning the Spirit creates for you in this text by posting a comment on our website – www.brentwoodpc.ca.*

Being

A Provocative Pondering

Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us provoke one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together ... (Hebrews 10:23-25a)

This week and next we will review briefly what we have learned from Paul over this past year of reading his letters together.

Next Sunday is also Remembrance Sunday, a day when we remember those who have sacrificed for peace in this world.

The good news that Paul proclaimed so powerfully, so persistently, so provocatively, was the news of peace having been established between God and his creation, especially the human beings to whom he had entrusted its care. That reconciliation came through the work of Jesus Christ, in which he decisively defeated sin and death through the crucifixion and resurrection and inaugurated a commonwealth of peace or wellbeing throughout all of creation. This is the kind of Lord that Jesus is and kind of world we are invited to participate in him.

We hear it proclaimed. We receive it. We stand in it. And we grow in it. That's the dynamic of Christian discipleship, the rhythm, if you will – listening, receiving, accepting, and learning.

The voice of justice, peace, and beauty that transformed Paul and he was passing on may not be the loudest or the most noticed in our world today. The voices of fear, anger, and hatred fill the air. But Paul did not let the most pervasive views of his day determine his proclamation. That privilege belonged to his Lord, Jesus Christ. His relationship with Jesus provided the energy and enlightenment to receive, stand in, and grow into a way of being in and for the world that brings clarity in the midst of confusion, courage in the midst of fear, and joy in the midst of pain.

We are invited to pick up on and participate in Paul's mission of peace and reconciliation, assured by the Spirit that we are being saved through it. Let's do it together.