

Memorize & Ponder

Dec 11, 2016 – Advent 3 / Joy

Memorize & Ponder Text – Matt 11:6
(Full Readings – Ps 146 & Matt 11:2-11)
Week of Dec 4-11, 2016

Is Jesus the One?

Matthew 6:11 (NRSV)

“And blessed is anyone who takes no offense to me.”

*Throughout the Christian year of 2016-17, from Advent to Advent, we will be focusing on the theme of ‘Flourishing in the Fulfillment of God’s Promises.’ Our Scripture readings and Memorize & Ponder texts will be taken mostly from the gospel of Matthew. His focus in telling the stories of Jesus is on the fulfillment of God’s promises to creation recorded in the Hebrew Scriptures. This is a Jewish Jesus, God’s promised Messiah. But the ways God’s promises were fulfilled in Jesus scandalized most people of his day (and perhaps of ours?) with their apparent foolishness. 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.*

Ponderings for the Friends of Jesus

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)

A Word for the Friends of Jesus to Ponder = Offensive

How could anyone find Jesus offensive?
Loving Jesus, meek and mild, can’t be offensive!

As we will find over and over again this year,
that’s not the Jesus we find
portrayed in the Gospels.
Jesus is angry with the multitude of ways
in which the fellow followers of Israel’s God in his day
were offending against the real purpose
of the teachings of the law and the prophets.

Here’s how Augustine,
one of the most important sages of the church,
talks about dealing with the offensiveness of our faith:

*Hope has two beautiful daughters.
Their names are Anger and Courage,
Anger at the way things are,
And courage to see
that they do not remain as they are.*

Are we ready to be offensive
in the service of Jesus’ hope and joy?

Gratitude for Grace Noticed this Week

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