

Memorize & Ponder

Sunday, Feb 26, 2017

Memorize & Ponder Text – Matthew 5:44

(Full Readings – Ps 119:33-40 and Matt 5:38-48)

Week of Feb 19 - 26, 2017

Love Your Enemies – Seriously?

Matthew 5:44 (NRSV)

**But I say to you, Love your enemies
and pray for those who persecute you ...
(Matt 5:44)**

*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. Use the questions on the back of this insert to provoke your thinking. We look forward to hearing the about those insights during our 'Words to Ponder' conversation in the worship service.*

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)

Words for the Friends of Jesus to Ponder = Enemies

We invite you to give these words and the text/passage some prayerful pondering this week. By taking a few minutes each day to focus on these words in the context of the readings and your life, the Spirit will engage more deeply with you and nourish you to flourish in the grace of Jesus Christ. Do not hesitate to invite others into the conversation.

Here are some questions to guide your considerations:

Jot down any other key words and ideas in the text and passage that fascinate you.

What do you think those words and ideas meant for those who first heard/read this text?

What meaning do you find for your faith and life in these words and ideas?

What meaning for our mission and ministries here at Brentwood do you find in these words and ideas?

Gratitude for Grace Noticed this Week

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