

## ***Memorize & Ponder***

**Sunday, Oct 29, 2017**

### **Memorize & Ponder Text**

**(Full Readings – Ps 1 & Matthew 22:34-46)**

**Week of Oct 22-29, 2017**

### **What Is the Essence of Christianity?**

#### **Luke Matt 22:37-39 (NRSV)**

And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God  
With all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.”

This is the greatest and first commandment.

And the second is like it:

“You shall love your neighbour as yourself.”

*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)*

### **A Word for the Friends of Jesus to Ponder = Love**

We invite you to give this word 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’s a question that might help to focus your ponderings:

### ***How are you living the love of God in your circles of influence?***

**Notes for participating in Christ’s mission this week:**

**Remember to pray for the faithfulness of Brentwood in its mission this week.**