

Memorize & Ponder

Sunday, Mar 18, 2018 – Lent 5

How Do We Bear Much Fruit?

Memorize & Ponder

for the Week Mar 11-18, 2018

(Full Readings – Ps 51:1-12 and John 12:20-33)

John 12:24 (NRSV)

**Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat
falls into the earth and dies, it remains a single grain;
but if it dies, it bears much fruit.**

Throughout the coming Christian year, from Advent 2017 to Advent 2018, we will focus on the prophetic witness in the Hebrew Scriptures, what many Christians call the Older Testament. We will connect that prophetic literature with the teachings of Jesus and his early disciples/friends that are found throughout the writings of the New Testament. As a community, we will ponder the prophetic tradition's message for us in our age and context, just as Jesus did in his.

*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 question 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 =
Bearing Fruit**

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:

***What habits in your life have to die
in order for you to bear
more fruits of blessing?***

Notes for participating in Christ's mission this week:

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