

Memorize & Ponder for the Week of Aug 11-18, 2019

Scripture Lesson for Aug 18 – Acts 8:26-40 Sermon Theme – Understanding the Good News

Sermon text for next Sun, Aug 18 – Acts 8:35 (NRSV)

**Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture,
he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.**

From June of 2019 through May of 2020, the worshiping community that gathers weekly in this space of gracious sanctuary here at Brentwood will be exploring the complex, but coherent, dynamics by which the triune God formed and reformed the early churches into their mission of being ambassadors of that God's reconciling love revealed definitively in Jesus Christ.

As we did with the Psalms over the previous 12 months, we will employ an ancient tradition in the church, dating back to the 6th century, that involves praying the Scriptures daily. It's called Lectio Divina or holy reading. We will practice it, play with it, improvise on it, and be steeped by God's grace in it. We think it will change our lives!

We welcome your suggestions and comments on how best to consider more deeply the benefits of following Jesus Christ into the Kingdom/Commonwealth of God.



Daily ponderings on the early churches

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)

Our words to ponder this week are *Good News*.

Lectio divina (holy reading)* invites us to do 5 things as we consider the biblical passage: listen, reflect, see, respond, and rest in what the Spirit is teaching. What are you hearing? What meaning is being formed or reformed for you? What images or metaphors come to mind? What kind of response is the Spirit suggesting? What difference does the final moment of rest in God's reconciling love make for you?

We suggest that you read the whole passage at the beginning of the week. In the days following, you might focus on the sermon text chosen by Brian. Read it aloud and listen to your words. Ponder it anew each day. See new dimensions of its message. Pay attention to your attitudes and how the Spirit may be reforming them. And rest in the richness of God's nourishing Word as you grow into the justice, kindness, and humility that delight God.

Notes for participating in Christ's mission this week:

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

* A good introduction to *lectio divina* is Eugene Peterson, *Eat This Book: A Conversation in the Art of Spiritual Reading* (Eerdmans, 2009)