

Notes for Brian's Sermon at Brentwood Presbyterian Church

Sun, Mar 15, 2020 – Lent 3

Cultivating Change

(Ps 63:1-8 and Luke 13:1-9)



He replied, “Sir, let it alone for one more year,
until I dig around it and put manure on it.”
(Luke 13:8)

Fascinations to consider

This is not the series of reflections that I intended to suggest this morning – the focus shifted as we got overwhelmed by the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic this week – at a very deep level, it has ripped apart our easy confidence in our ability to control things in this world – we don't know where it came from, how it might spread, how long it might last, or what kinds of damage it will do to our ways of life – and that's only the surface of the questions that are disturbing our souls as we watch this disease take its toll – so, my fascinations to consider this week have mostly been fearful

Provocations to ponder

But in the midst of that rising fear, in the dark stench of the belly of the whale, this small, but persistent, voice reaches my soul – “Fear not, I am with you!” – it's the energy of God at work in midst of every hour that we face, granting us wisdom and granting us courage – wisdom and courage to be agents of hope and healing, not victims of fear and folly – let us cultivate faithful change in the face of unexpected changes being forced upon us – how do we remain calm in the confidence that flows from God's forgiving and reconciling love? – how do we remain curious about the things we can do? – how do we remain appreciative of all those seeking to help in the midst of these troubles? - so I'd like to invite us to take counsel together on how best to be agents of hope and healing here at Brentwood in the coming weeks as this pandemic works its way through our city – what can we do to seek the welfare of this city? – how can we be blessings in all of our circles of inspiration and influence?

Compassion to practice

[A consultation is held with all gathered on what to do as a fellowship of the friends of Jesus in this time of crisis.]

My Notes



My Prayers