

Neighbors in Christ Newsletter – March 2020

Happy March my dear family and friends,

Grace and peace to you, beloved, as we continue in this Lenten season. This month we humbly walk with our Lord towards Jerusalem knowing His last day will end in Him hanging from a cross. In our Ash Wednesday worship service that was held in the last week of February, we were adorned with ashes on our foreheads as a symbol reminding us of our imperfect mortality. Through God's love and mercy, we have been marked with the cross of Christ forever. As members of the Kingdom of God, we too share in Christ's baptism, life, death, and resurrection. On Wednesday evenings, leading up to Holy Week, we will explore the Christ Hymn, written by the Apostle Paul in the Letter to the Philippians.

Lent reiterates that no matter what, we are still called to live among God's faithful people; to hear the Word of God and share in the Lord's Supper; to proclaim the Good News of God in Christ through word and deed; serve all people following the example of Jesus; and to strive for justice and peace in all of the earth. After all, these are the baptismal assurances we have been given, but also have agreed to share with others in the Body of Christ.

These themes can be so demanding, but our God calls us to do better. And again, let us remember...Jesus told the crowd on a level playing field as if He were one of the persons who had been wronged to forgive. He does not talk down to others, but raises them up toward the Kingdom in which we are invited to share in, but more importantly inherit. These are the principles in which we should concentrate on in our own personal lives during this Lenten season. I am not a fan of fasting or giving something up, rather I choose to take on a discipline as the season moves forward. And I invite you to do the same over these 40 days.

Our Lord wants us to do better and to show humanity that loving one another through being a good, humble, and disciplined person is what the Kingdom of God is. This, my friends, is what the Good News is all about and is what we are called to do...to be blessed in all that we do, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, and to share it with others.

Welcome to the beautiful season of Lent, and I will see you in worship. God bless you all!

Rev. Erik Karlson
Pastor, Neighbors in Christ Parish