

THOUGHTS FROM MY LAPTOP March 13 2011

This past week was Ash Wednesday, marking the beginning of our journey towards the Cross. During the days of Lent, we will have opportunity to rest in the power of Jesus, through the offering of worship, bible study, fellowship, and reaching out to those in need.

Henri Nouwen has written a book called, *Letters to Marc about Jesus*. The last chapter is called '*Listening to Jesus*'. In this final letter, Nouwen encourages his nephew to keep listening to the voice of the Holy One, and to resist the distractions of the world, which sometimes seem more urgent.

Nouwen suggestion applies to us as well. He reminds us first of all, that Jesus is the Lord of the Church, and therefore one way to listen to him, is "immerse ourselves deeply in the liturgical life of the church through its services of worship and praise".

Secondly, he says that we should listen to "the book", or in other words, read the bible! Careful listening to the word of God informs our hearts, minds and spirits and shapes us for ministry in the church and the world. Thirdly, Nouwen encourages us to listen to our hearts, for it is there that Jesus speaks most intimately to us through the power of prayer. Listen to that "still small voice," the voice of gentle love, and the voice of Jesus in your heart." There is a clatter of sound in the world around us, voices that call us this way and that, voices that may keep us from following through with our Lenten Practice. However, if we intentionally make time to listen to the voice of Jesus, in worship, word and prayer, we will discover that the journey to the Cross-with Jesus is truly an adventure. We will begin to realize that with Christ all things are possible, his grace is more than sufficient, and with that realization, our faith will blossom in the light and life he brings.

I want to encourage you therefore, to enter fully into the various Lenten Program offered at Trinity this year, all of which are clearly outlined in various places in this issue of Happenings. In particular I urge you to join the group Bible Study led by Rev. Janet and Gladys Fisher. I stress that because we learn from each other, and we strengthen our bond of fellowship when we study the Bible together, and that makes for a stronger healthier more bible based Christian community. And that after all, is what we all desire, isn't it?

The call to "Keep a Holy Lent" reminds me of the hymn Jesus Calls us oer the Tumult, in particular the last two verses:

In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and pleasures, "Christian, love me more than these." Jesus calls us! By thy mercies, Savior, may we hear thy call, give our hearts to thine obedience, serve and love thee best of all.

May it truly be so this Lent and always for all of us. Every Blessing for a Holy Lent, and Joy as we meet and greet our Risen Lord at Easter!

Rev. Elizabeth +