



Monday, May 2, 2011

READ- The Psalter: Psalm 116:1-4

This psalm of love and trust in God expresses the experience of the psalmist of God's faithfulness in times of trouble. In response to God's gracious love, the psalmist affirms his commitment to worship and service in the house of the Lord.

REFLECT-

- How has God been especially good to you in recent days? How have your needs been met in unexpected and gracious ways? What will you offer God in response to his goodness?

PRAY-

Lord, I thank you for all the blessings of my life which come from you. Help me to extend that loving kindness to everyone I encounter today. Amen.

Tuesday, May 3, 2011

READ- Acts of the Apostles: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

At the conclusion of his Pentecost sermon, Peter's listeners respond to his message dramatically. Through the power of the Spirit in his words, they are "cut to the heart" and are convicted of their sins and that Jesus IS indeed the Messiah for whom they have waited.

REFLECT-

- Do you remember when you first accepted Jesus as the Lord of your life? What was your response to that conviction? How do you respond on a daily basis to Jesus being Lord of your life? What can you do differently today to more fully live into that conviction?

PRAY-

O God, help me to renew the conviction of faith that I felt when I first came to know the Lord Jesus as Savior and to live in ways that are faithful to his teaching and example. Amen.

Wednesday, May 4, 2011

READ- The Epistle: 1 Peter 1:17-23

Peter's letter to Christians being persecuted for their faith continues with a reminder to them of the sacrifice made on their behalf by the Son of God so that their eternal salvation may be assured. In response to that gift, Peter encourages them to live in ways that are holy and faithful.

REFLECT-

- Peter urges these believers to "love one another deeply from the heart". That love is not one of sentiment or pure emotion, but of care and commitment to the needs of others and of support for each other in keeping the faith. Have you experienced that kind of love within our church family? Have you offered it to others?

PRAY-

Father, place in my heart the deep, abiding love of Christ so that I may be a blessing to and a servant of others. Amen.

Thursday, May 5, 2011

READ- The Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

Jesus appears on the road to Emmaus after the resurrection to two men who were disciples, but not within the circle of the eleven. His conversation with them provided yet another testimony of his living presence which they immediately shared with the eleven in Jerusalem.

REFLECT-

- Christ's presence is with us daily and he demonstrates his power in ways small and great. But we, like the men going to Emmaus, often are not aware of the events of our life being shaped and influenced by Christ. How has Christ been present to you over the last week of your life? How did you respond to his presence?

PRAY-

O God, I thank you for Christ's gracious presence with all who are believers. Help me to be aware of Christ's call in my life and to respond in faith. Amen.

Friday, May 6, 2011

ACT-

Focus Verse: Psalm 116:16

O Lord, I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your serving girl. You have loosed my bonds.

What would it mean in your life to take seriously being a servant of God? In what ways do you now offer your service to God? Do you care for a family member, friend or neighbor? Do you pray, study your Bible and gather with others to do so regularly? Do you worship God with other believers each Sunday? Do you regularly share some of what God has given you in some way with others who are in need? In your work, do you provide care or service to others? Or are you primarily focused upon your own needs and wants, "squeezing God in" when it's convenient? Make a conscious effort today to offer a gift of service to God in some new way.