



Monday, January 14, 2013

READ- The Old Testament: Isaiah 62:1-5

Isaiah continues to prophesy that God will restore Israel's fortunes – not only rebuilding the temple and Jerusalem after its destruction and their exile to Babylon, but restoring the hearts of the people and their good relationship with a God who loves them.

REFLECT-

- Sometimes we find ourselves in such a ruined situation that it seems impossible that any good can happen. Relationships are broken, health fails, finances are difficult, and the world is filled with violence and hate. Yet God is able to do more than we can ever hope or dream if we trust and are faithful to him.

PRAY-

Lord, we pray for healing for those who suffer in this broken world. We ask for your peace. Come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen.

Tuesday, January 15, 2013

READ- The Epistle: I Corinthians 12:1-11

Paul encourages the believers at Corinth here to make full use of the gifts the Spirit has given to each of them. He describes the various gifts of the Spirit so that persons may look for those gifts within themselves and other people.

REFLECT-

- When we truly accept Christ as our Savior, we are gifted by the Spirit with ways, means, and abilities that we can love and serve God and our neighbor. What are those gifts of the Spirit which God has instilled in you? How are you using them to serve the Kingdom? How might you use them more fully in this new year?

PRAY-

O God, give me the wisdom to recognize your spiritual gifts in myself and in other and the courage to use them according to your will. Amen.

Wednesday, January 16, 2013

READ- The Gospel: John 2:1-11

In the Gospel of John, each miraculous happening involving Jesus is described as a "sign" which points to Jesus as God Incarnate in the flesh so that people might come to believe. This story is the first of the "signs" Jesus performed – albeit against his will at his mother's urging.

REFLECT-

- All of the wondrous things Jesus did involved making something happen which seems impossible – blind men seeing, lame men walking, 5 loaves and fishes feeding thousands of people, water turned into fine wine. Just as Isaiah affirmed, with God nothing is impossible.

PRAY-

O God, many things seem impossible – peace, forgiveness, healing, sharing what we have so that all have what they need. Make us instruments of your possibility the world. Amen.

Thursday, January 17, 2013

READ- The Psalter: Psalm 36:5-10

The psalmist uses imagery from God's majestic creation to symbolize God's great and mighty love and power. The heavens, clouds, mountains, sea, and light all become metaphors for the vastness of God's being; God's providence is portrayed as a feast, a river of delights, and a fountain, all abundant and overflowing.

REFLECT-

- Taking time each day to take stock of all the ways God has blessed us is important. When we realize how abundantly God has provided for us, that gratitude translates in how we treat others, how we use what we have, and the way we approach life in general.

PRAY-

Father, thank you for the many blessings of life and for all the ways in which you provide for our needs and those of the world. Amen.

Friday, January 18, 2013

ACT-

Focus Verse: I Corinthians 12:7

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

We are not given spiritual gifts just for our own benefit – those gifts are to be used in community with other believers. Those who have gifts of wisdom and knowledge must share it; those who have discernment of spiritual things must help those who are seeking God's will; those who can teach or serve or do works of compassion must do so, not for their own praise or benefit, but so all may be built up in the faith and God may be glorified. Are you active in this community of faith sharing in worship, study, work and service? What are your places of service in the church for 2013? Your opportunity to make that commitment will come next Sunday.