



Racine Dominicans
Committed to Truth + Compelled to Justice

PRAY, PONDER, PREACH AND PRACTICE THE WORD OF GOD

Facilitated by Racine Dominican Preaching Committee January 2022

A Not So 'Ordinary' Time

With the Feast of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, we bask for a week in the glow of Christmas. Then with the Baptism of John, we enter the public life of Jesus, and a quite lengthy Ordinary Time this year. Ash Wednesday is not until March 2, so we have about eight weeks to watch Someone who is going to model for us how to be authentically human.

If we listen with our hearts to the scriptures we will observe this Human One, this Son of Man, doing a lot of the things we find ourselves doing. He talks with people, travels, eats, sleeps, puts up with difficulties, and with difficult people. It's not what he does but how he does it that we need check out. He is constantly aware of who he is. He is Abba's Beloved. This gives him a context to view everything going on around him.

Maybe that's the clue for us as we listen to the readings of these weeks. Christmas has told us who we are...we too are the Beloved. What would happen if we thought of that and smiled each time we looked in the mirror...no matter what we are seeing there? Then we too will talk with others, move about from place to place, put up with our own difficulties, and difficulties with others. Sound familiar? Yes, we too have our 'ordinary' time.



*Yes, it is Ordinary, this time...
But You were not 'ordinary' nor am I.
You are the Father's Beloved,
and (can I believe it?) so am I.*

Thank you to Associate Kathie Solie for the January reflections.

January 2, 2022

Isaiah 60: 1-6, Ephesians 3: 2-3a, Matthew 2: 1-12

With full faith in the message of the Prophets of old, the 'Three Wise Men' responded to an unusually bright star. As befitting a visit to a royal, they traveled far and brought fine gifts. In our own day, this rather parallels a visit by grandparents to the firstborn of a new generation. Joy and excitement is in the air and hearts overflow. Alas, in this story there is a dark cloud hanging over the visit. The King Herod sends a message, asking information of the location of their visit. For word is that a 'new king' had been born. The King's message is false; he promises honor but schemes evil. The three visitors to Bethlehem are prompted in a dream to slip away quietly and ignore the King's order. A lesson for us resides in this story. We must discern the truth and wisdom in the messages that come from leaders, whether they are organizational, political or religious leaders. Indeed, we are called to pray and ponder.

January 9, 2022

Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11, Timothy 2: 11-14, #4-7 Luke 3: 15-16, 21-22

Luke takes us to hear the preaching of John the Baptist. John selflessly deflects his listeners' praise of him as the Promised One. He proclaims, in the strongest of words, the supremacy of Jesus. So often I am tempted to respond to the 'wrong messages' from the 'wrong idea', or the 'wrong person'. Perhaps that which is flashy and exciting draws me. I need to keep John on guard in my mind and heart, to protect me and steer me.

January 16, 2022

Isaiah 62: 1-5 First Corinthians 12: 4-11 John 2: 1-11

Often we hear humor attached to the action of Jesus turning water into wine. However, a clear message is hidden in the communication between Jesus and Mary. Her awareness of the 'power' of her son reflects back to the Annunciation. She knew, as must we, that Jesus has Divine Power. As water was converted to wine, so might we sinful people be cleansed into Eternal Purity.

January 23, 2022

Nehemiah 8: 2-4a, 5-6, 8-10 Corinthians 12: 12-30 or 12: 12-14, 27, Luke 1: 1-4 4: 14-21

In Mark, we find Jesus in the temple, as was his custom on the Sabbath. However, he does not simply read the message. He claims it as 'his' and as his mission. How often do we dare to proclaim who we are as Children of God? It is our honor and our duty as preachers. Our lives must speak our message.

January 30, 2022

Jeremiah 1: 4-5, 17-19 First Corinthians 13:13 Luke 4: 21-30

Last week's Gospel challenged us to speak our truth. This week, Luke continues the narrative of Jesus in the Synagogue and reveals just what response Jesus encounters when speaking his truth. Dare we expect less? Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote about The Cost of Discipleship. Indeed, there is and will be great cost in claiming who and whose we are.