

03-27-22 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

“Every person has a truth, rooted in their perceptions, experiences, and hopes. It is only when, equipped by grace, we listen to one another that our truths can be reconciled in love and become a new story of hope and restoration.”

- *Julia Seymour*



Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Questions for Reflection —

- Where/when/how in your life have you acted similarly to the prodigal son? In what ways have you ever strayed from the life of discipleship? When have you rebelled against God and/or squandered one of God’s gifts? Where in your life presently are you in need of God’s acceptance and forgiveness? What practices help you to find your way home to God?

- Where/when/how in your life have you acted similarly to the elder brother? Against what person(s) or situation(s) do you harbor resentment? What do you need in order to be able to release the resentment? What will help you to see that person or situation through the loving eyes of Jesus? Whose stories and perspectives do we as a congregation not understand or heed? How can we better listen?

- Who in your life might presently be in need of your unconditional love and acceptance? What will help you offer that love and acceptance? What does it mean for you to have empathy and compassion for those who differ from you? How might we as a congregation embrace and welcome those who are lost and are still searching? How can we offer renewal, repair, and restoration to those whose relationship with God is broken and fragmented?

Daily Household Prayer

Most merciful God, you know the thoughts of our hearts. We confess that we have sinned against you and done evil in your sight. We have transgressed your holy laws. We have disregarded your Word and Sacraments. Forgive us, O Lord. Give us grace and power to put away all hurtful things, that being delivered from the bondage of sin, we may bring forth fruit of repentance, and from henceforth may ever walk in your holy ways; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.