

### 03-30-25 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

“In the world's economy, we are constantly weighing the value of each activity, possession, and, yes, human life, whether consciously or unconsciously...In the world's economy, we maintain systems that keep us comfortable even when others are left out. But in God's economy, no one is lost or forgotten. In God's economy, no matter how many are safe, God doesn't rest until ALL are found and restored.”

*Beth Ludlum*



Luke 15:1-10

#### Questions for Reflection —

- Have you ever experienced a time when you felt lost or far from God? When or how have you strayed from the path of discipleship? What are some of the distractions, pressures, or preoccupations that threaten to make you lose your way? What does it mean to you that God will pursue you if and when you stray? What helps you to hear the voice of Jesus calling you back?
  
- Who are the people who might feel excluded from or rejected by organized religion or the institutional church? What does it mean for us as a congregation to do the work of seeking and finding those who are alienated from the church for whatever reason? How can we as a congregation participate in God's mission of reconciliation and restoration for the “lost”? What does welcome and hospitality look like towards people who consider themselves outsiders?
  
- Who do you know that needs to be gone after, searched for? Who in your workplace or neighborhood might feel left behind or overlooked? What would it mean for you personally to actively build relationships with them? Who are the people that are presently undervalued or devalued in our society? What are the societal situations in need of love, faith, and hope? What are some ways we as a congregation might take action to challenge societal norms that degrade and devalue the humanity of others? What action(s) might we take to address the needs of and protect the vulnerable?

#### Daily Household Prayer

O Lord, open my eyes that I may see the needs of others; open my ears that I may hear their cries; open my heart so that they need not be without succor; let me not be afraid to defend the weak because of the anger of the strong, nor afraid to defend the poor because of the anger of the rich. Show me where love and hope and faith are needed, and use me to bring them to those places. And so open my eyes and my ears that I may this coming day be able to do some work of peace for thee. Amen.