

10-01-23 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

“If we retreat from the issues of our day, wring our hands, and declare we can do little, we have responded as the chief priests and religious leaders did so long ago.

They opted to duck the question and stay on safe ground. But from the gospels, we sense a call to respond... Christians are to respond faithfully, living out what they believe...silence (‘we do not know’) Is not a faithful choice.”

- Terri Shillington



Philippians 2:5-11 ✠ Matthew 21:23-32

Questions for Reflection —

- When it comes to your Christian faith do your actions always match what you say you believe? Why or why not? What sometimes makes it difficult for you to demonstrate what you believe by what you do? In what ways do you fall short in responding to Jesus’ call for your life? What will help renew your commitment to live out your faith in all aspects of your daily life?

- What does it mean to have the mind of Christ? In what ways are you an imitator of Jesus? What does it look like for you to offer yourself in humble service to others? How can you demonstrate Christ’s love in practical ways in your family, in our congregation, in your workplace or school, in your community? How can we as a congregation serve as humble servants to the neighbors and community around us?

- What do you view as the most critical (and possibly controversial) issues facing the church? The world? How does fear about the reactions and opinions of others affect your willingness to take a stand when it comes to those issues? What might it look like for you to venture beyond “safe ground” to somehow make a difference when it comes to those issues? What does it mean to take a stance and yet offer grace to those whose ideas and opinions are different from yours?

Daily Household Prayer A Prayer of Saint Patrick

Christ be with us, Christ before us, Christ behind us,
Christ in us, Christ beneath us, Christ above us,
Christ on our right, Christ on our left,
Christ where we lie, Christ where we sit, Christ where we arise,
Christ in the heart of every one who thinks of us,
Christ in every eye that sees us,
Christ in every ear that hears us.
Salvation is of the Lord,
Salvation is of the Christ,
May your salvation, O Lord, be ever with us. Amen.