



SAINT TIMOTHY'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## LENTEN SERIES 2006 A COVENANTAL RESPONSE TO POVERTY

### WEEK I – THE FACE OF POVERTY

#### **Opening Prayer:**

BCP: #22 on page 209

All Recite:

*“Christ has no body on earth but ours, No feet but ours, no hands but ours.  
Ours are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ is to look out on a hurting  
world.*

*Ours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good.  
Ours are the hands with which he is to bless all now.” [St. Teresa of Avila]*

#### **Bible Study:**

- *Genesis 1:24-31 – No poverty in Eden*  
What is God’s vision/plan/intention for taking care of us? What is God’s vision/plan/intention for our use of creation? Is there any implication that there will not be enough for everyone? Why do we act like there won’t be enough for everyone? Where did we get off track?
- *Deut. 24:19-22 – The face of poverty in the OT*  
Who were the poor in ancient times? What was God’s plan for taking care of the poor? How does that bless us? What experience does God draw on to help the Israelites understand?
- *Matthew 25:31-46 – Jesus puts his own face on poverty*  
Where is this passage placed in the Gospel? How does that highlight its importance? What face does Jesus put on the poor in the gospel? Who does Jesus identify with? What does that mean for us? List the actions of kindness. What are the basic human needs that are addressed? This is a passage about judgment. How will this influence your response to suffering in the world?

### **Poverty in our Parish?:**

Parishioner and Vestry member, Stephanie Phillips shares her story.  
Questions

### **Table Discussions:**

- What is your reaction to Stephanie's story?
- What is the face of poverty today? In our town, country, world?
- Have I been poor? Have I seen the poor?
- How have I served the poor? Have I seen Jesus in the poor? How has that helped me to serve?
- How is face to face service different from writing a check?

### **Closing Prayer:**

Recite the Baptismal Covenant – BCP page 304

### **Take Home Challenges:**

#### *Prayer Challenge:*

Spend one minute per day praying about poverty in our county, nation, and world.

#### *Action Challenge:*

Fast all day or skip a meal. Send the money saved to Episcopal Relief and Development or another charity.