



SAINT TIMOTHY'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

LENTEN SERIES 2006  
A COVENANTAL RESPONSE TO POVERTY  
WEEK 4 – REASON FOR HOPE

**Opening Prayer:**

We pray for all those around the world who want to learn,  
But are denied their right to education.  
We pray too for those who teach, especially  
Those who work with few resources and little support.

We give thanks for the knowledge, skills and understanding we have  
And we ask your help to remember how much we have still to learn.  
Teach us to respect wisdom, wherever we find it.  
As you walked with the disciples on the road to Emmaus  
Walk with us as we try to understand.

Open our hearts and minds to new learning  
Even when it challenges us to change.  
Give us the courage to tackle injustice and  
Guide us towards a new, shared future,  
Where everyone has the chance to learn,  
and all may grow in wisdom and understanding.

*Linda Jones*

**Bible Study:**

- *Luke 4: 16-21 – Jesus brings hope to the poor*  
What is the good news Jesus brings to the poor? Why might Jesus have chosen this scripture to reveal himself? Could this quote be a mission statement for us, for the church?
- *1 Peter 3: 13-18 – The foundation of our hope*  
What is Peter encouraging the early believers to do? Are you ready to articulate the reason for your hope with “gentleness and reverence”? What would that look like? If someone asked you why you spend time helping those less fortunate, what would you say?
- *Deut. 6:4-9 and Luke 10: 25-37 – Love God, love neighbor*

The lawyer recites the law accurately, and then looks for a loophole. What loophole is the lawyer looking for? Jesus tells a story that illustrates the law and defines “neighbor”. Describe the quality of care the Samaritan gives. In Jesus’ definition, who is our neighbor? What loopholes do we allow for ourselves?

**Discussion:**

- When has someone bent over backwards to help me like the good Samaritan did? What was that like? Was God’s grace revealed in that event? How?
- What “loopholes” have I (or society) created that distance me from “crossing the street” to help a neighbor?
- What place does faith have in our work to alleviate suffering in the world?

**Guest Speaker:**

Palo Alto City Council Member and former School Board President, John Barton, speaks on education issues/challenges in California and our nation. How is education a hope for alleviating poverty?

**Closing Prayer:**

Recite the baptismal covenant – BCP page 304

**Take Home Challenges:**

- Read Luke 4:18 again. Pray about the things that hold you captive, the things that blind you, and the things that oppress you. Pray for release, so that you will be free to be used as an instrument of peace and hope for others.
- Practice “accounting for the hope that is in you”. (1 Peter 3:15) Pray for that hope to infect the world.
- Give thanks for the people who contributed to your education. The support, experience and training they provided helped develop the gifts you use today. Give thanks for the freedom and choice you have as a result of your education.
- Pick a local school to pray for. Pray for the teachers, students and administrators at the school. Ask God to help break down the barriers to learning in that school whether they be financial, disciplinary, racial or something else. Get involved in the life of the school so you will know what to pray for specifically.
- Act and Learn Challenge: Go to a school board meeting. The next Mountain View-Whisman School Board meeting is scheduled for April 6. (Call to find out time and place).
- Advocacy Challenge: Help create a public conversation about our schools by talking to your friends and/or writing a letter to the editor of your local newspaper or radio station. Next time there is a school bond measure on the ballot become involved in the campaign.