



A MEDITATION FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Raleigh, NC

February 28, 2021

Reflective Reading

Sinfonia Oecumenica

Christian faith is full of hope. It is a new beginning, opening to a future which is different from the past. Each day we can be born anew.

Each day our lives are given back to us with hope. Each day is a new opportunity to renew our decision to let that shabby old coat lie where we dropped it—and move on renewed. Knowing that, as of this moment, a new person is being created.

Knowing that we are free from our bondage to the past. Free to live fully in the present—and to move into the future. And knowing the future can be totally different, not just as a result of our new ideals and good intentions, but because of the forgiving, renewing action of God.

Voluntary "The God of Abraham praise", setting by Timothy Shaw

Prayer

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Mark 8:31-38

Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

The Meditation

Voluntary "How firm a foundation", setting by Zack Unke

The Rev. Tyrone Fowlkes, Officiant; **Marcia Klinder-Badgley**, Director of Music, **David Both**, IT Communication