

Daily Morning Message

St Paul United Church of Christ

5312 Old Blue Rock Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45247

Allen M Fluent, Pastor

Thursday, April 15, 2021

Daily Lectionary Readings Psalm 4
Daniel 9:1-19
1 John 2:18-25

Today's Scripture Verse: *We do not present our supplication before you on the ground of our righteousness, but on the ground of your great mercies. O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, listen and act and do not delay! For your own sake, O my God, because your city and your people bear your name! (Daniel 9:18b-19)*

What it means: This passage from Daniel is an extraordinary example of ancient Israel's understanding of the grace of God. There is first a lengthy confession of belief that the people's predicament is of their own making, because they failed to listen to the demands of the prophets for justice. Since they recognize their sin, they affirm that they do not have a claim on God's mercy. Still, they ask God to help them, because they know that they belong to God and that God cares about them.

Our time of reflection: In prayer, we cannot hide our sins from God; but we can recognize those things we have done wrong, ask forgiveness and re-commit ourselves to live according to the way of God's justice and love.

