

Daily Morning Message

St Paul United Church of Christ

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*Allen M Fluent, Pastor*

Wednesday, August 26, 2020

Daily Lectionary Readings      Psalm 8  
Exodus 2:15-22  
Matthew 26:6-13

Today's Scripture Verse:      *Why do you trouble the woman? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. (Matthew 26:10b-11)*

What it means:                      This is one of those passages of Scripture that confounds interpreters, leading us into complicated justifications or simplistic conclusions. It sounds like Jesus is saying the poor will always be with us so we don't have to do anything about it, or that the honor given to him by the woman is more important than the mission to help those who are poor. But those thoughts seem to contradict the basic message of the Gospel. Maybe it means that the honoring the work Jesus is doing to bring the heavenly Realm of God to earth is even more important than meeting some people's immediate needs. Or maybe we can just make our own confession, like, for me, if I had been there, I'd have wanted to vote to sell the oil and give the proceeds to the poor, and I'd have probably argued with Jesus about it. So what do you think?

Our time of prayer:                God, we pray for the day when the poor are no longer with us, because we have finally committed ourselves to the heavenly Realm of God, where justice and equity, compassion and peace, prevail. Until then, grant us wisdom in using our worldly treasures for your good purposes in the world.

