

## A Message from Rev. Jackson for Sunday, February 21, 2021

As we enter the third weekend in February, we begin to see the light at the end of the tunnel for both winter, and hopefully, the COVID-19 virus. I pray for each of you as you get your vaccines and guard your bodies against this terrible plague. Let us be on guard spiritually as well, as we move into this season of Lent. Mark 1 gives us the short version of the beginning of Jesus's ministry. Jesus's baptism, his forty days in the wilderness, John's arrest, and the annunciation of the good news of repentance and salvation are all presented in six verses. One of the characteristics of Mark's gospel is that he is in a rush to tell the story of Jesus. Volumes have been written about each of these events in Jesus's life. This Sunday morning we will consider each of these points and how they apply to our spiritual journey.

In Genesis 9 of the Old Testament, we learn about God's everlasting covenant established with Noah and all of his descendants, symbolized by the rainbow. God wants to be in a relationship with us and sent His son Jesus to establish the ultimate covenant through the cross. God promised to never again destroy all life on earth with flood waters. The rainbow is that everlasting reminder of this covenant between God and His beloved people.

The lesson in I Peter 3 is to teach us that God's salvation in Jesus Christ covers the sin of all those in the future and those who longed for God's righteousness and salvation in the past. Jesus' resurrection released the imprisoned spirits of the past. In other words, all sins...whether present, past, or future are forgiven by the blood of Jesus Christ. The water is a symbol of the washing away of sin by Jesus' sacrifice.

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**The scripture for your reflection this week is:**

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|---------------|-----------------|
| Old Testament | Genesis 9:8-17  |
| New Testament | I Peter 3:18-22 |
| Gospel lesson | Mark 1:9-15     |

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**This week's memory verse is:**

FOR WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS, THERE WILL YOUR HEART BE ALSO  
Luke 12:34

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**Hymn for Inspiration: "Blessed Assurance"**

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine

Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God  
Born of His spirit, washed in His blood

This is my story, this is my song, oh yeah  
Praising my Savior all the day long  
This is my story, this is my song, my song

Praising my Savior all the day long, all the day long  
This is my savior, all the day long  
The day long

<https://fb.watch/3NbFp63B9o/>

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We will gather this Sunday morning in the sanctuary at 10:00 am. We practice social distancing and wear masks to ensure the safety of those who choose to join us. We also invite you to go to our website at <http://www.fcc-worcester.org/worship-services.html> to listen to this week's recorded worship service. However you choose to join us in worship, please know that we hold each member of our church family and our friends in prayer this week. We pray that God will walk with you and bless you until we meet again.

Because He lives,  
Rev. Bob Jackson