

Dear Church Family, for the week of **September 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Pastoral Concerns:** Pastor Jeff Long-Middleton 978-273-6399

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**Emergency Assistance:** Care Coordinator Carole Taylor 802-222-4590

**Sunday morning worship** is at **10:00 a.m.**

Pastor Jeff says of this week's scripture: Let's focus on Mark 9:30-37. Jesus is alone with His disciples. He tells them He is going to suffer, be treated like a criminal, die an ignoble death and after three days rise from the dead. Doesn't it strike you as odd that not a single soul asks Jesus to clarify the calamity He has just foretold? Instead they let Jesus walk by Himself while they pull back and take up a debate as to who among them is greatest! Jesus seems to know that something is amiss. He asks them what they were discussing. What do the disciples do? They fall silent. Indeed, they never answer the question, but just like a parent knows when the kids are up to no good, Jesus knows. I wonder how all this made Jesus feel. Here, towards the end of His public ministry, the ones who were closest to Him still don't get it. Jesus becomes the teacher once again. It's not about who is the greatest or who is first. No. In Christ's Kingdom the aim is to be the least of all and the servant of all. This is how the text puts it: <sup>36</sup>*Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them,* <sup>37</sup>*"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."* So this Sunday, let's take a deeper look at this teaching of Jesus and at the end, see if we can achieve the standard Jesus has set before us.

**Lectionary readings** for this coming week:

**Proverbs 31:10-31** (a capable woman defined)

**James 3:13 – 4:3,7-8a** (God's wisdom is peace)

**Mark 9:30-37** (Jesus defines "true" greatness)

**Psalm 1**

*theme hymn: Lord Make Us Servants of Your Peace*

**September 30<sup>th</sup> ... Book Brunch after church ("The Refugee")**

- Click on **EPISTLE** to get this month's Lectionary readings.
- Past Sermons can be accessed at [News & Sermons](#) .
- The latest "back story" can be accessed at ["Upcoming Worship"](#) or at [Church News](#)
- Our congregation's activities are listed on our [online calendar](#)
- Our Facebook page link is [Bradford Congregational Church](#)

Thank you! **The Grace of the Lord Jesus be with you**

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