

WEOLEY HILL CHURCH NEWS

From the Interim Moderator

February 2010

Dear Friends,

There are times, or brief moments, when we suddenly feel extremely sad or melancholic because of something that we know is inevitably going to happen. Perhaps we want it to happen, or perhaps it is something we are told is going to happen, or we just know is going to happen, and it involves a major change. It means that our lives are going to change dramatically and we will have to leave something or someone behind as we move to a new future. Perhaps we are moving from one school to another or one job to another, or to no job at all when we retire or are made redundant. It may be that children leave the home, or a marriage falls apart, or a move to another part of the world. Or it may be that you are told that you have only a few more weeks or months to live, or someone whom you love dearly is terminally ill. In all of these situations, you may be overwhelmed by this deep feeling of loss and sadness, which may just as suddenly disappear again as hope or a sense of purpose provides support and encouragement.

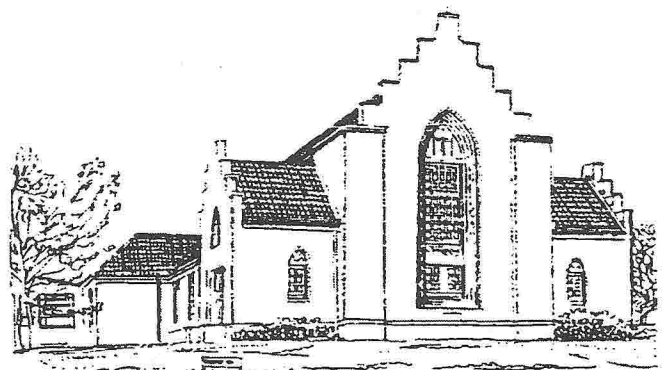
We are moving into the season of Lent and during the 40 days of Lent we are going to walk with Jesus to Jerusalem where he will face trial and be crucified. Jesus knew what was going to happen; he knew what awaited him in Jerusalem. At times he was overwhelmed with sadness and, as we read in the gospels, in the last weeks and days of his life he often took time to be alone and pray, no doubt to seek encouragement from the One he intimately called "Abba" (Father). One can sense that Jesus made his final journey to Jerusalem, which he knew would end in death, with feelings of sadness and dread. However, Jesus also had a very strong sense of purpose which helped him to overcome these feelings and gave him the strength to continue his ministry and journey of faithfulness. And he tried to share this sense of purpose with his disciples,

who at times may have understood, but at other times clearly misunderstood and tried to discourage Jesus from pursuing his journey!

Perhaps we can walk the Lent journey with Jesus, recognizing that Jesus, human as he was, felt the same as we sometimes feel, as we may be faced with the inevitable. "The sorrow in my heart is so great that it almost crushes me" Jesus said to his disciples (Mark 14:34). When such sorrow overwhelms us, may we know God is only a prayer away . . . nay, even closer, God is in our hearts!

With best wishes,

Leonora



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