



Lenten Reflection for Monday, March 14th

Carolyn Metz

You can listen to the reading and reflection by clicking [here](#).

Daniel 9:4b - 10

I prayed to the Lord my God and made confession, saying, "Ah, Lord, great and awesome God, keeping covenant and steadfast love with those who love you and keep your commandments, we have sinned and done wrong, acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and ordinances.

We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes, and our ancestors, and to all the people of the land.

"Righteousness is on your side, O Lord, but open shame, as at this day, falls on us, the people of Judah, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and all Israel, those who are near and those who are far away, in all the lands to which you have driven them, because of the treachery that they have committed against you. Open shame, O Lord, falls on us, our kings, our officials, and our ancestors, because we have sinned against you. To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, for we have rebelled against him, and have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God by following his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets.

I find the concept of reconciliation such a healing and connective process to God. Reconciliation, while difficult to make an admission from our own lips of how we have turned aside and forgotten God, at times unknowingly, or purposely and consciously sinned, is also transcendent, powerful and brave. It makes me remember God's unfailing forgiveness and love. God is the only love that is perfect. God's forgiveness is always available. This passage reiterates that beautifully. The words that stood out to me were confession, covenant, steadfast love, turning aside, mercy and forgiveness. Confession has always been something that is fearful for me leading up to it. At times it has been coupled with not so nice words directed at myself for acting on or not acting on promises that God and I had agreed on. However, after walking through the fear and allowing God to forgive me, it is easier to forgive myself. After confessing, the beauty, freedom, peace,

and gratitude I feel is amazing. Enduring unwavering love is what God gives me and I am worthy of it. When I feel unworthy I can turn aside again - disconnect to keep myself suffering. But I need only reflect again for God's grace and mercy. God never leaves us, even through those times of disconnection- God is here and there always.



Carolyn moved to Windsor Terrace recently and began attending service in the beginning of January. She is feeling so blessed and thankful to reconnect to her faith.