

## Daily Reflection

March 16, 2020

We will begin offering a brief morning reflection based on the Daily Office. The church has a sequence (lectionary) of daily Bible readings using a two-year cycle. It starts on page 934 of your *Book of Common Prayer*, and we are currently in Year 2. The readings are meant to be used as part of Morning and Evening Prayer. In this context, "office" means "work;" the connotation is that worship is our first vocation. All the parts of Morning Prayer are beautifully pulled together for you at [www.missionstclare.com](http://www.missionstclare.com), including recorded hymns.

Today's readings include a portion of Joseph's story (you remember: the fellow with the coat of many colors). Judah was Joseph's half-brother who convinced the others to sell Joseph as a slave to traders. They were jealous and wanted to be rid of him. In today's reading, Judah is a changed man. Standing before a powerful man in Egypt (whom he does not recognize as Joseph), Judah pleads for the freedom of his youngest brother Benjamin and offers to be captive in his place. He has no jealousy in acting to preserve the son his father now loves most.

Yesterday was a life-changing event for me. I did not anticipate just how painful it would be to arrive and not greet all of you as you appeared at predictable times and sat in predictable places. There was no chat with Bob Kimball to start the day, no moment with those of you who always come to the 10 a.m. service early and listen to the choir rehearse. The loss of these simple pleasures has brought home what a profound blessing they are. It inspires us to ask: What are the simple pleasures of **today** that I must not fail to appreciate? How can I pause to give thanks for the present moment and all it holds? **The General Thanksgiving** toward the end of Morning Prayer guides our answers. May your day be filled with discovery of blessings.

*Pastor Kathleen Kelly,*

Interim Rector

Painting by Charles Thevenin:

