

**August 6, 2017**  
**Summer Sermon Series**  
**“Mountains of the Bible: The Mountains of Ararat”**  
**(A Place to Rest)**

**First Reading ~ Genesis 8:1-12**

But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and all the domestic animals that were in the ark, and sent a mighty wind over all the earth so that the waters began to subside. The springs of the Deep and the windows of the heavens were closed up. The rain from the heavens stopped. The water covering the earth gradually dropped, until at the end of 150 days, it was gone. In the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. The waters continued to go down until the tenth month. On the first day of the tenth month, the tops of the mountains came into view.

At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made and sent out the raven; and it went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. Then he sent out the dove, to see if the waters had subsided on the earth. The dove, finding no place to perch, returned to the ark, for there was still water over the whole earth. So he put out his hand and brought it back into the ark. Noah waited another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark. The dove came back in the evening, with a freshly plucked olive branch in its beak. Noah knew that the waters were receding from the earth. Then he waited another seven days, and sent out the dove; and it did not return to him any more.

**Second Reading**

*~ Adapted from Richard Templar in*

*“The Rules of Life: A Personal Code for Living a Better, Happier Life”*

**Rule 46. Remember to Touch Base**

Before you can touch base, you have to know where base is. Base is home. Base is where you belong. Base is where you feel comfortable, secure, loved, restored, and trusted. Base is where you feel strong. Base is anywhere you can kick your shoes off, metaphorically and physically, and rest your head, safe in the knowledge you'll be looked after.

We all lead increasingly busy, frenetic, and frantic lives. We all get caught up in the busyness of life to such an extent that we lose sight of where we thought we were going, and what we thought we were going to do, and what we believed we were going to achieve. Base is going back to where you dreamed it all, planned it all out. Base is where you were before you got lost.

We all need time with people or in places where we can be ourselves, where we don't have to explain, justify, provide background or give a good impression. That's the joy of touching base— being somewhere you are accepted without question and everything around you reminds you of what's really important. Touching base is something that, when we do it, we wonder why on earth we ever left it so long.