**Bringing Church Home – February 2, 2018**

**Bible** **Bites**

*These short passages come from the Lectionary readings for today.*

Monday Isaiah 40:21-24 The Lord rules from the beginning

Tuesday Isaiah 40:28 The Lord does not grow weary

Wednesday Psalm 147: The Lord creates and heals

Thursday 1 Cor. 9:19-23 Paul adapts to preach Christ

Friday Mark 1:29-31 Jesus heals Simon’s mother-in-law

Saturday Mark 1: 32-39 Jesus heals many, many more

**Ritual**

*An activity to try at home*

Have you ever prayed to music? It doesn’t have to be a religious song. Play one of your favorites and listen carefully. What image of God surfaces? What are you feeling as you listen? What is God saying to you? What prayer arises in your heart? Who else would benefit from this song, this prayer? How will you hear this song differently next time you play it?

**Holy Conversation**

*Talking points for a family or small group conversation*

Paul has an interesting strategy for winning people to Jesus. He “becomes” a slave, a Jew, a non-Jew, a weakling. He becomes “all things to all people.”

* What do you think of this tactic?
* Are there people with whom you could adopt it in your life?
* Are there people with whom you would not?
* How important to you is winning people to Christ?

Why or why not?

**Caring**

*An idea for putting faith to work*

Take a moment to think about the non-Christians in your classroom, your workplace or your family. How might you build a bridge to them even if you don’t expect to win them to Christ? What would you want them to know about how Christians think and act? What would you have to say or do? In other words, how would you make Christ known?

**A Prayer for the Week**

You are great, God. I’m in awe of everything – from the stars in the sky to the worms in the earth. How did you come up with all these great ideas? On top of that you sent your Son to help us when we get in trouble, to heal us when we are sick and to show us how to live. Thanks be to God. Amen.



**A Blessing**

*You could place your hands on another and say this blessing.*

*You could also say it tenderly for yourself.*

May you live today in the certain knowledge of God’s tireless care for you.

**Bible Verse for the Week**

The Lord does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

He gives power to the faint; and strengthens the powerless.

Even youths will faint and be weary; and the young will fall exhausted;

But those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,

They shall mount up with wings like eagles,

They shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

(Isaiah 40:28-31)