



PROJECT RECONNECT

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Liturgical Date: Year C, Lent 3, 20th March 2022

Presenter Catherine (Peps) Pepper

Focus Readings Isaiah 55:1-9 and Luke 13:1-9

Message 11 minutes 10 seconds **“Making Sense of Bad Things”**

Discussion Starters

- 1** What stood out to you the most when listening to the message today?
- 2** Can you think of a time in your life where you have taken the role of the vineyard owner? How would you have acted differently if you were taking the role of the gardener?
- 3** In what ways can your church be a community of gardeners for others? What changes to language and activities might you need to make to achieve this?
- 4** How would your community respond to the changes discussed?

Lectionary readings for the day

Isaiah 55:1-9 God offers all that we need and more, yet we are inclined to run after things that do not satisfy our deepest needs, and so God calls us to turn back.

Psalm 63:1-8 The psalmist believes that God satisfies our deepest needs and that it is impossible for the believer to flourish when away from God. For this reason, the psalmist sings, “My whole being thirsts for you” vs1.

1 Corinthians 10:1-13 What we do matters. The choices we make matter. Paul therefore both urges us to resist temptation and promises that God will support us as we strive to be faithful.

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All Age Message Maria Williams **“Love is the Absence of Judgement”**

Length 7 minutes 15 seconds

Precis of AAM

Random things happen that are no one’s fault. However sometimes things happen and we are to be blamed and sometimes we are the victim. We can be like the Owner of the fig tree and blame/judge others for our misfortunes or like the Gardener, a carer who works on the issue and is caring and patient to get a result. Jesus is open to renewal and like the gardener wants to tend and nurture all.

Resources: Uniting in Worship (Blue Book). Psalm 63:1-8 Pages 293.

Catherine (Peps) Pepper

I am a committed Christian and lay leader in the UCA with particular passion for environmental sustainability. Served for 2 terms on the Assembly Standing Committee. I have studied Contemplative Christianity through the Living School of Action and Contemplation in New Mexico and serve local churches in Newcastle through the gift of music, singing with a Capella singing group ‘Momentum’.