

## An Exploration of Forgiveness – Lent 2015

### Week 4: So what is forgiveness?

Perhaps the key lies in the prayer that Jesus taught us that captures the deepest concerns of his own heart and teaching: “forgive us our sins as we forgive those who are in debt to us.” Debt...lack. We return to the origin of sin as lack. So not forgiving perpetuates what is the source of sin, lack and constriction. Granting forgiveness - given and received - simply returns us to the truth of our being complete & whole. This is what the word “peace” truly means.

It is an assertion that there is a place deep within us which cannot be diminished...that is the “whole” person that God created. Jesus’ baptism defined this...God’s child beloved and well pleasing...this is God’s enduring and constant! This is why this season of forgiveness concludes with the wholeness of Christ and our renewal of this truth of ourselves before God, before one another, and before ourselves in our baptism!! Then sin does come to an end, finally.

This week’s Conversation continues:

Please take a moment to write down what it would be like to truly have the weight of your own sin, or of others’ sins against you, removed from your heart:

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Tear off your responses and place them in the offertory basket...no names please! I will carefully read your responses and use them to guide our continued exploration.