***Wednesday: The Widow and Fig Tree***

**Luke 21:1-4, 29-38; Psalm April 8, 2020**

***“Look at the fig tree and all the trees. When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening,   
you know that the kingdom of God near.”*Luke 21:29-31**

**Reading: Luke 21:1-4, 29-38**

**Reflecting:**

This passage begins and ends at the gates to the temple, where Jesus spent his days teaching during Holy Week. I hope you can identify with the faith of the widow, where real generosity lies, as well as the leaves budding out on the fig tree. I lost my view of Guemes Channel this week! Jesus’ point is that the generosity of the widow which begins this passage is essential to avoid the “life weighed down with dissipation . . . and the anxieties of life.” And “watch and pray” sounds an awful lot like the *ora et labora* of our Reformed foremothers and forefathers. In this season of uncertainty and anxiety, there is a lot to learn in this picture and parable if we are to “stand before the Son of Man.”

Where have you experienced the way generosity addresses the tyranny of the anxieties of life?

How can we develop the disciples of watching and praying?

**Praying: Psalm 130**

*Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; O Lord, hear my voice.  
Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.  
If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand.  
But with you there is forgiveness; therefore you are feared.* Psalm 130:1-4

This song of ascents is one the pilgrims sang on their way to temple. Jesus would have heard it while teaching in the temple courts. It is another great psalm of crying out as we wait, “more than watchmen wait for the morning,” for God’s love which is expressed most beautifully in this psalm in God’s work of forgiveness. Yes, who could stand?

*Father, like the pilgrims who sang this prayer on the way up to Jerusalem, we also cry out for your mercy. As our souls wait, wait for your love and wait for your redemption, show us the morning that follows the depths.*

*Father, thank you for keeping no record of sin and for Holy Week where Jesus showed us the full extent of your love for us. Allow us to see past our anxiety and to respond with the generosity of the widow to the needs around us.*