

**“The Best and The Worst in Us**

*(idea borrowed from a meditation in Eggs and Ashes by Burgess & Polhill, Wild Goose Pub.)*

**Matthew 26 & 27**

1st Pres San Bernardino

Rev. Dr. Sandra R. Tice

3/16/08Lent 6

As we hear the Passion story, we are invited to ponder the love of God, alongside human sin, and human goodness.

That sin and goodness are especially visible in the life of Peter, one of Jesus’ closest friends.

Sin and goodness write a story in each of our lives.

In each of us, and in each congregation, Peter at his best, and Peter at his worst can be found.

There are moments when we walk on water, when we speak transforming truth, when we are ready to die for love.

And there are moments when we deny who we are and desert those who need us, and weep bitterly.

**We know, because of Easter, that the love of God in Christ can redeem it all.**

In a time of quiet reflection, let us together confront the frightened Peter within us whose actions or words say: “I do not know the man!”

Let us seek, also, the faithful Peter in us who became the Rock of the Church.

We will have 3 minutes of quiet in which to think and pray.

Gracious God, how does this story touch our lives?

Who are you calling us to be, and what are you inviting us to do?

*(quiet music for 3 minutes)*

Let us pray: Dear God, help us to carry out what you’ve invited us to do, help us to grow into the person you have invited us to be.

Silence the frightened one in us, who ‘does not know’ what those who question us are talking about. Silence the Peter in us who is afraid of the cost of discipleship.

Give us the courage to be true to our deepest selves, the people you dream we can become.

Redeem us, Oh God, in all our brokenness and bravery.

May we as individuals, and this congregation as a whole, be known for the extravagant love and courage that guide our living. this Holy Week, and always. Amen.