

**SHARING THE FAITH: WEEKLY EMAIL DEVOTION  
FOR THE WEEK ENDING JANUARY 31, 2010**

**Reading for January 31, 2010, Fourth Sunday after Epiphany:**

**JEREMIAH 1:4-10**

<sup>4</sup> Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,

<sup>5</sup> 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,  
and before you were born I consecrated you;  
I appointed you a prophet to the nations.'

<sup>6</sup> Then I said, 'Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.' <sup>7</sup> But the LORD said to me,

'Do not say, "I am only a boy";  
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,  
and you shall speak whatever I command you.

<sup>8</sup> Do not be afraid of them,  
for I am with you to deliver you,  
says the LORD.'

<sup>9</sup> Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me,

'Now I have put my words in your mouth.

<sup>10</sup> See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,  
to pluck up and to pull down,  
to destroy and to overthrow,  
to build and to plant.'

**Faith Questions:**

1. Where are you in this text? Can you relate to how Jeremiah feels?
2. This is the story of Jeremiah's call by God to be a prophet. There are a variety of gifts. Not all of us are called to be prophets, but each of us is given gifts to use and each is called to be somebody—to use our gifts to the glory of the Kingdom. What gifts has God given you? What has God called you to do?
3. The word "consecration" (or "consecrated," in verse 5), means, "The setting apart of a person or object or place for a special divine use."\* What are some examples of people, objects, or places that you can think of that are "consecrated"? Have you ever considered the idea that you are consecrated for something? What "special divine use" might God have in mind for you?
4. Which words in this text bring you the most comfort? Which ones bring you the most fear?
5. What message might this text contain for the people of Trinity as we move forward into the next phase of our pastoral transition? What message might this text contain for the people of Trinity as we examine our mission and ministry in the Lansdale community and beyond? What do you think God might have consecrated the people of Trinity to do in this community and world?

**Let us pray:**

Lord, remind us that you have consecrated us, your people, both as individuals and as a community. Help us to hear your call. Give us the courage to speak and to act in your name.

*For whom else, and for what else, shall we pray? (Insert your own prayer here)*  
Amen.

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\*Definition taken from the *Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms*, by Donald McKim.

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