



**March 1, 2020**

**prepare : freedom**  
*Isaiah 58:1-7*

*Rev. Courtney Richards, preaching*

**Connect**

- ❖ Think of (and share) a time when you were held back by something (shame, fear, other people, physical obstacles). What freed you from that? How and where did you find a way out?

**Engage**

- ❖ Read **Isaiah 58: 1 - 7**. (We will be moving through this chapter all month, adding verses each week. You might read the full text each time, to get the benefit of the repetition and rhythm of the passage.)
- ❖ Vs 6 & 7 offer a familiar litany of oppressions from which people need release. What is the theme that runs underneath all of these? Remembering that the prophet’s job is not fortune-telling, but course-correction, what about these people is the prophet trying to correct?
- ❖ Look at the transition from vs1-5, into vs 6. Do you see the correcting? ‘This is what *you* think matters. Think about *this* being important instead.’
- ❖ What distracts you most in your faith? What have you focused on, thinking that was ‘the key’, only to find something else brought you closer to God instead?
- ❖ Can you think of a time when you have been the impediment to someone else’s faithfulness? What have you done (or not done) that might have affected how they see themselves as a child of God?

**Next Steps**

- ❖ In Lent, we often think of what we will ‘give up’ as a spiritual discipline. The idea of this is to make room for God. Maybe you need to ‘take on’ something instead? What is keeping you from the God-connection you desire? What part of your life or understanding needs to be freed up for this divine relationship?

**Pray**

*God of mercy & justice, of compassion & challenge, of wisdom & reckoning, may we spend these 40 days of Lent setting things right. May we be freed from what binds our spirits, and released to full life with you. Amen.*

**HARVARD AVENUE HIGHLIGHTS**

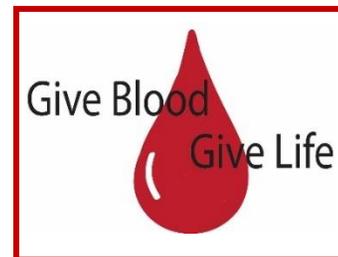
[www.hacctulsa.org](http://www.hacctulsa.org) -> click ‘Your Week at Harvard Avenue’



To finalize work by the Finance Ministry Team in 2019, a very brief congregational meeting will be held on **Sunday March 15 @ 10am to amend the Endowment Trust**. This meeting will briefly outline the authority and responsibility of the Trustees, and place three names before the congregation for a vote.

*As this meeting is a one-item agenda, adult Sunday School classes will gather at 10:15am that morning.*

*Children and Youth classes will carry on at 10:00am as usual.*



**Blood Drive**  
**Wednesday March 4**  
**4-7pm**

The need for blood donation is constant because every two seconds someone needs blood. Your generous donation can make a lasting difference in someone’s life. You can sign up for your preferred donation time on your Sunday Connection card or at one of the Welcome Centers. Thank you for giving!