



A Lenten Mosaic - Living In Grace Lent 2020

**Devotion for Thursday,
March 5, 2020**

All Dressed Up

Guilt clings as the summer's heat
Tis Satan's wardrobe that I wear
Joy and peace struggle to appear
The burden more than I can bear

"Not a good man" my conscience says
Just let me do enough, be good enough
Then all will be okay-I'm sure
For surely I know how to be pure

"I" can fix it-make it right
Remove the weight that pulls on me
One more kindness or giving touch
My integrity should be enough

Then each morn I wake to find
The garment I've not left behind
Fitting like it belongs to me
Satan smiles to see me dressed like he

Finally I say - "No more"
Will this burden I bear
Where, oh where
Is there someone to help me share

The cross is empty now
Daylight reveals the stone is gone
Jesus has chosen to come
To take the cloth as his very own

He strips from me – without a word
The clothing that I wore
It is gone He says
You will see it never more

Then He offers to me
New clothing – a new way
To dress myself
As I awaken each day

He smiles at me
To see me dressed in his finery
The cloth of righteousness
Fits so very well

Turning to Him I ask the cost
There must have been some sacrifice
Jesus smiles again
“I PAID THE PRICE”

Written by an anonymous Lakeside Member

John 3:16-17

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

2 Corinthians 5:21

For our sake God made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Prayer

Forgive us, O God, for we have sinned. We too often read your commandments as restrictions on our freedom rather than loving guidance for our lives. We cherish power and success rather than the life of humility and sacrifice to which Jesus calls us. We look to you for grace but we would rather not accept the inconvenience and effort that a life of discipleship demands. Give us courage, O God, for the times when your love takes us places we do not want to go and when it calls us to extend ourselves to meet the needs of others. Help us to live lives of obedience and faithfulness after the example of Christ who gave himself for the sake of the world that you love so much. Amen.