



LENTEN PROGRAM

**LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION,
BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL.**

LENTEN TEACHING AND DISCUSSION ON THE NATURE OF TEMPTATION & SIN

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

MARCH 4 - APRIL 1



**CHRIST CHURCH ANGLICAN
LENT 2020**

**A TEACHING SERIES USING C.S. LEWIS'
THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS**





SCHEDULE

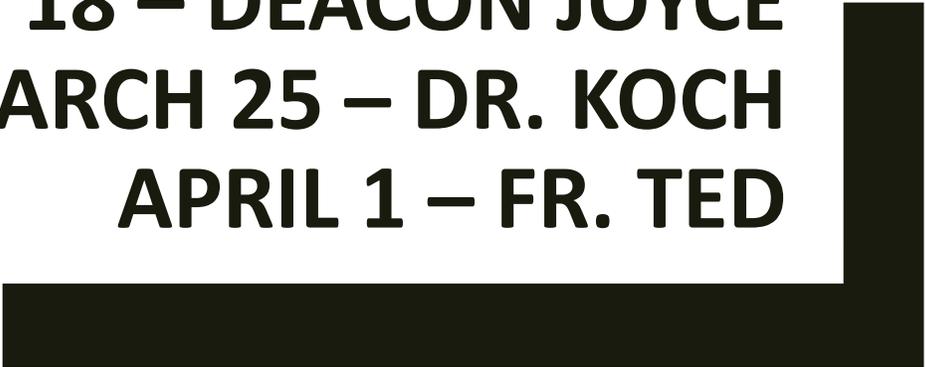
MARCH 4 – FR. TED

MARCH 11 – DR. KOCH

MARCH 18 – DEACON JOYCE

MARCH 25 – DR. KOCH

APRIL 1 – FR. TED



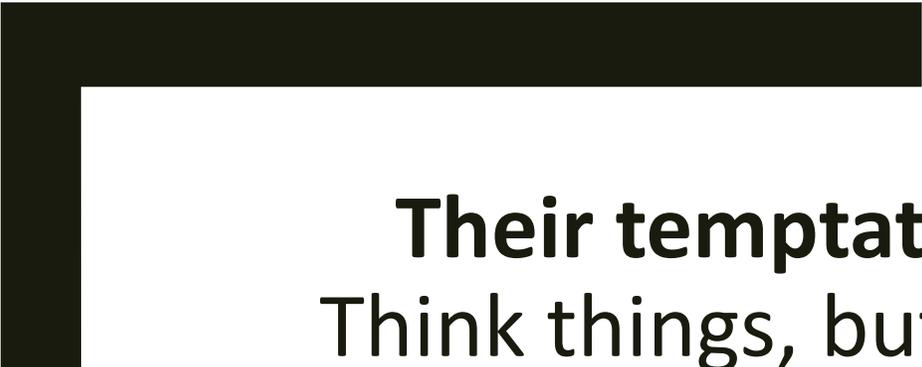
METHODOLOGY

Through teaching and discussion, we hope to help you think more deeply and precisely about the temptation to sin in your life.

Screwtape to Wormwood –

“Jargon, not argument, is your best ally in keeping him from the Church. ...The trouble about argument is that it moves the whole struggle onto the Enemy’s own ground. ...By the very act of arguing, you awake the patient’s reason; and once it is awake, who can see the result? Even if a particular train of thought can be twisted so as to end in our favour, you will find that you have been strengthening in your patient the fatal habit of attending to universal issues and withdrawing his attention from the stream of immediate sense experiences. Your business is to fix his attention on the stream.” TSL p. 11-12

SESSION 1



Their temptation:

Think things, but don't actually do anything about any of it!

Our Response:

The development of one's own habits into practiced Christian virtues.



**Tempter strategies to keep us inside our
head instead of practicing virtues:**

**Disappointment & Irritation in those around us:
in the church, & at home.**

“When he gets to his pew and looks round him he sees just that selection of his neighbours whom he has hitherto avoided. You want to lean pretty heavily on those neighbours. ...Never let it come to the surface; never let him ask what he expected them to look like. Work hard, then, on the disappointment or anticlimax which is certainly coming to the patient during his first few weeks as a churchman.”

“(he) thinks that he is showing great humility and condescension in going to church with these ‘smug’, commonplace neighbours at all. Keep him in that state of mind as long as you can.” STL p. 16-19

**Disappointment & Irritation in those around us:
in the church, & at home.**

“...build up in that house a good settled habit of mutual annoyance; daily pinpricks.”

“Keep his mind on the inner life. He thinks his conversion is something *inside* him and his attention is therefore chiefly turned at present to the states of his own mind... Keep his mind off of the most elementary duties by directing it to the most advanced and spiritual ones.”

“Make sure (his prayers for his mother) are always very ‘spiritual’, that he is always concerned for her soul and never with her rheumatism.”

“...he will, in some degree, be praying for an imaginary person, and it will be your task to make that imaginary person daily less and less like the real mother – the sharp-tongued old lady at the breakfast table. In time, you may get the cleavage so wide that no thought or feeling from his prayers for the imagined mother will ever flow over into his treatment of the real one.”

“...see to it that each of these fools has a sort of double standard. Your patient must demand that all his own utterances are to be taken at their face value and judge simply on the actual words, while at the same time judging all his mother’s utterances with the fullest and most over-sensitive interpretation of the tone and context and suspected intention. She must be encouraged to do the same to him.” TSL p. 20-23

The Key: the development of actual, practiced Christian virtues

“So do not allow any temporary excitement to distract you from the real business of undermining faith and preventing the formation of virtues.” TSL p. 30

“The attitude which you want to guard against is that in which temporal affairs are treated primarily as material for obedience.” TSL p. 42

**The Key, put another way:
Becoming “sons,” the transition from
dreaming aspiration to laborious doing**

“The Enemy...has a curious fantasy of making all these...into what He calls His ‘free’ lovers and servants – ‘sons’ is the word He uses... Desiring their freedom, He therefore refuses to carry them, by their mere affections and habits, to any of the goals which He sets before them: He leaves them to ‘do it on their own’.” TSL p. 17

So, a two-pronged tempter strategy:

**Irritation with others...*that leads
to inaction toward them;***

&

***Staying inside one's own head...
which leads to inaction toward others.***

“He (God) wants men to be concerned with what they *do*; our business is to keep them *thinking* about what will happen to them.” TSL p. 34

“The great thing is to direct the malice to his immediate neighbours whom he meets every day and to thrust his benevolence out to the remote circumference, to people he does not know. The malice thus becomes wholly real and the benevolence largely imaginary.” TSL p. 37

“Think of your man as a series of concentric circles, his will being the innermost, his intellect coming next, and finally his fantasy. You can hardly hope, at once, to exclude from all the circles everything that smells of the Enemy: but you must keep on shoving all the virtues outward till they are finally located in the circle of the fantasy, and all the desirable qualities inward into the Will. ***It is only in so far as they reach the will and are there embodied in habits that the virtues are really fatal to us.***” TSL p. 37

CONCLUDING PRAYER *(IN UNISON)*

“O God, the strength of all who put their trust in you: Mercifully accept our prayers, and because, through the weakness of our mortal nature, we can do no good thing without you, grant us the help of your grace to keep your commandments, that we may please you in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.”

*-ACNA Book of Common Prayer 2019, Collect for the
Sunday of Proper 1 of the Season after Pentecost*