



# *Leaning Into the Heart of the Holy*

*2016 Lenten Devotions*

**Saturday**

**March 19, 2016**

## ***Clay Jars***

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Having lived in Italy for years, I've a profound appreciation for the care with which artisans shape and design vessels of clay. It's almost impossible to create two identical clay vessels by hand—there will always be something distinct about each piece. And, so it is with each of us. We live in a world of quick duplications. We often overlook the uniqueness of who we've been created to be. When I consider God's light shining out of darkness, I'm deeply moved that we—unique earthen “clay jars”—have been invited to bear that light into the world.

As we make our annual Lenten pilgrimage to the cross once again, I invite us to consider how we—clay jars—might allow God's light and power to shape the actions of our hearts and minds. May we be mindful that the God of creation faithfully breaks into the brokenness of the world with the treasure of love, compelling us to move forward through the dark night of crucifixion and into the light of an empty tomb.

From the 2016 Princeton Theological Seminary  
Lenten Devotional

## **Prayer of Saint Richard of Chichester (1197-1253)**

Thanks be to thee, my Lord Jesus Christ,  
for all the benefits thou hast given me,  
for all the pains and insults thou hast borne for me.  
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,  
may I know thee more clearly,  
love thee more dearly,  
and follow thee more nearly, day by day.  
Amen.

## **2 Corinthians 4:5-10**

For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies.