

## WEEKLY SCRIPTURES

February 3, 2019

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19 † 1 Corinthians 13:4-13 † Luke 4:21-30



### Reflection by: Sister Eileen Ivory, OP

Today's Gospel picks right up where last Sunday's selection ended with Jesus telling the people in the Temple that he was a prophet in the fashion of Elijah and Elisha, that is one who had a heart for the poor, for the captive, for the blind, for the oppressed. But how could this be? He's just a kid from the neighborhood. We know his dad, a local carpenter not important enough. Doesn't fit my expectations of what a prophet should be. So what is the issue here? Is Jesus not qualified to be a prophet OR is it my need to label, to put in a box, to view **my** understanding of prophet as the gold standard.

Labeling, putting people in boxes, maintaining that my understanding of a situation is the only one and the best one and the always-correct one has become a national disease. We must ask ourselves, "What are the walls I put around people to keep them in line with my idea of who they are?"

In the words of the recently deceased poet, Mary Oliver,

**"Keep some room in your heart for the unimaginable."**