

## ***Deaf Not Dumb***

Laurie Brenner  
Mark 12:28-34  
January 7, 2024

***Introduction:*** This week UPC is pleased to welcome Rev. Dr. Laurie Brenner back to our pulpit. Pastor Laurie Brenner is a Pacific Northwest native. Laurie has served UPC in several roles, most recently as Pastor of Discipleship. She has also served at other churches in Seattle, Vashon Island, Scotland and Paris. After completing her Ph.D. in New Testament Studies at Durham University (England), Laurie returned to the classroom, teaching at Seattle Pacific University and Fuller Seminary until the fall of 2018, when she accepted the call to be Senior Pastor at West Side Presbyterian Church where she continues to serve. She and her husband, David, love walking their dog in West Seattle, travelling, reading, and especially spending time with their grown kids (Emma and Jeremy) and many nieces and nephews.

***Prayer:*** Father, open us to yourself as we study your word. Teach us what it means to love you with our whole heart, soul, mind and strength. Amen

***Review:*** How did remembering that you are fully known and fully loved change your interaction with others and with God this week?

***Read:*** Mark 12:28-34

### ***Discussion:***

1. What is the Teacher of the Law's question for Jesus? Why do you think he asked this question? What question would you like to ask Jesus?
2. What does it mean to you to love God with each of these: Heart, Soul, Mind, Strength?
3. How does loving with these four facets bring God's love into all of your life?
4. We love because God loved us first (1John 4:19) How is loving your neighbor powered by your loving relationship with God?
5. What Laws do you put ahead of these two? What change might you make to elevate what God tells us is most important in your life?

***Application:*** Ask God for the ability to love more fully.

***Prayer:*** Thank you that you demonstrated your love for us tangibly and sacrificially. Continue to show us ways to love you and others more fully. Amen