The ancient version of the character had the image of a “son” and a “daughter” cradled over the representation of a heart. The love a parent has for a child is deep, compassionate love. In the modern version of the character, the children are represented by the character for tender young “grass,” and it carries the meaning of “lush.” When we have that deep love and compassion of a parent for the tender ones, those in need, pain, or in sorrow, we make God visible in the world.

This character is used with others to create words with related meanings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
<th>慈悲</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wren tsuh</td>
<td>Tsuh bay</td>
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Meaning of single characters: Kindness, benevolence/compassion
Meaning when put together: Loving kindness, Benevolence, charity, Mercy

Lectionary:
- March 26 Luke 1:26-38
- March 27 John 9:18-41
- March 28 John 10:1-18
- March 29 John 10:19-42
- March 30 John 11:1-17/12:1-10
- March 31 John 11:28-44/12:37-50

One of the words that is paired with “ci” is “ren”. This character is quite simple – the left side represents a person. The right side is the character for the number 2. “Ren-ci” can be translated as “merciful” or it can also be translated as loving kindness, benevolence or charity.

“Kind” is a word that does not have much depth to it in English. Perhaps it is because we have the phrase “How kind of you” in English, which is just a weak form of “thank you” and doesn’t usually carry much weight. Or maybe because the word “kind” has other meanings, like “variety” or “manner.” But kindness is one of the primary attributes of Jesus and other people of great wisdom, which along with compassion, defines those who are filled with God’s presence. Kindness is born from the willingness to look deeply at someone or some situation and try to understand the other person’s point of view. It is also the sign of a compassionate heart, of someone who sees the suffering of others and has a merciful attitude. People who are compassionate and kind carry a type of authority that gives others strength.

It is true that sometimes Jesus presented a stern demeanor or told stories that seemed scary to wake up people so they tried harder to understand his message. There is a difference between being stern and getting angry. When we get angry, the emotion has us riding on its back. But stern words can come without anger as a tool used in the hope of awakening someone who is stuck in their own way of thinking. Compassion is understanding someone else’s suffering, and responding with the hope of lessening their affliction, and needs to be coupled with wisdom.

The following are some reflections on compassion and kindness –

A human being is a part of the whole called by us the universe, a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feeling as something separated from the rest, a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion
is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest to us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty. ~ Albert Einstein

Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see. ~ Mark Twain

The ideas that have lighted my way have been kindness, beauty and truth. ~ Albert Einstein

Constant kindness can accomplish much. As the sun makes ice melt, kindness causes misunderstanding, mistrust, and hostility to evaporate. ~ Albert Schweitzer

Kindness is my religion. ~ The Dalai Lama

Grant that we may not so much seek to be understood as to understand. ~ Saint Francis of Assisi