

ALL SAINTS

PRESBYTERIAN

WOMEN'S STUDY

Wednesday, January 20

THE PRAYERS- A LITURGY FOR A TIME OF WIDESPREAD SUFFERING

PLEASE KNEEL.

Leader: Christ Our King, Our world is overtaken by unexpected calamity, and by a host of attending fears, worries, and insecurities. We witness suffering, confusion, and hardship multiplied around us, and we find ourselves swept up in these same anxieties and troubles, dismayed by so many uncertainties.

People: *Now we turn to you, O God, in this season of our common distress. Be merciful, O Christ, to those who suffer, to those who worry, to those who grieve, to those who are threatened or harmed in any way by this upheaval.*

Leader: Let your holy compassions be active throughout the world even now—tending the afflicted, comforting the brokenhearted, and bringing hope to many who are hopeless. Use even these hardships to woo our hearts nearer to you, O God. Indeed, O Father, may these days of disquiet become a catalyst for conviction and repentance, for the tendering of our affections, for the stirring of our sympathies, for the refining of our love.

People: *We are your people, who are called by you, We need not be troubled or alarmed. Indeed, O Lord, let us love now more fearlessly, remembering that you created us, and appointed us to live in these very places, in the midst of these unsettled times.*

Leader: It is no surprise to you that we are here now, sharing in this turmoil along with the rest of our society, for you have called your children to live as salt and light among the nations, praying and laboring for the flourishing of the communities where we dwell, acting as agents of your forgiveness, salvation, healing, reconciliation, and hope, in the very midst of an often-troubled world. And in these holy vocations you have not left us helpless,

People: *O Lord, because you have not left us at all. Your Spirit remains among us. Inhabit now your church, O Spirit of the Risen Christ. Unite and equip your people for the work before them.*

PLEASE BE SEATED.

LESSON: KIM HALL

"THE FIRST WORD"

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

And God spoke all these words: "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

You shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God.

Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

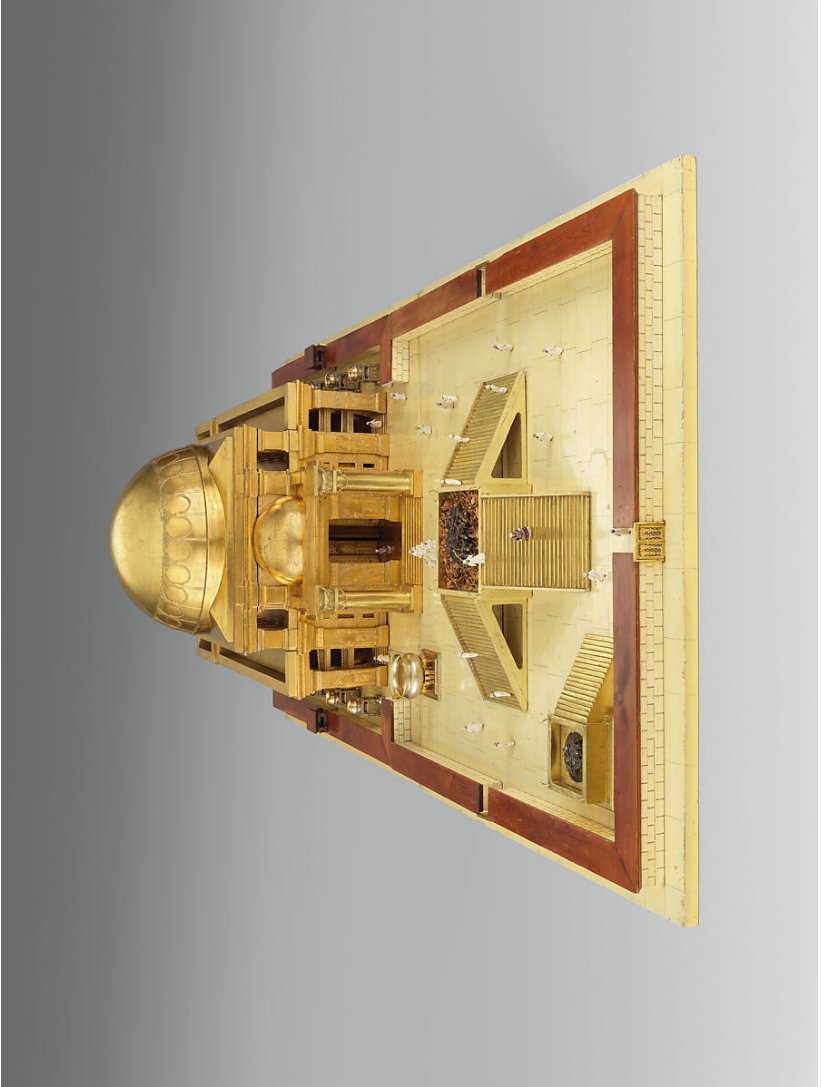
You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.





DECALOGUE

"THE FIRST WORD"

"I am the LORD THY GOD, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me."

What is the test/proof that someone is a 'real' god?

How are 'false' gods described?

How are the nations/peoples described?

How is God described?

What has God said and done to prove that he is a real god? What is his work?

What describes life as a son in the "House of the Father?"

What describes life as a son in the "House of Beelzebub?"

Idols v. God:

- Judge
- Savior
- Sin-Bearer
- Lawgiver

The First Word:

- Declaration of Independence
- Call to arms
- Pledge of God's intention

Lectionary Texts: Mark 1-4; Isaiah 41-44; Ephesians 3-4

NOTES:

COMPARATIVE STUDY : SHELLEY MALACHOWSKI

"BASHAN"

(please stand)

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.
(Words: Thomas Ken, Music: Louis Bourgeois)

BENEDICTION

Leader: O Lord, guide us waking and guard us sleeping; that awake we may watch with Christ and asleep we may rest in peace.

And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior and friend; and the love of God, binding us together and building us up, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit; knitting us together, be with us until we meet again.

People: Amen.

These readings are provided as a personal, family, or group worship resource. They are set in the Revised Common Lectionary, a schedule of daily Bible reading in accord with the Church year. They are designed around a two-year cycle that will take you through the Old Testament once, the New Testament twice, and the Psalms frequently. We are currently in the TMYear IJ cycle.

DAILY LECTIONARY

JAN 20-27

Wed, Jan 20

Ps. 38 / 119:25-48
Is. 44:24-45:7
Eph. 5:1-14
Mark 4:1-20

Thur, Jan 21

Ps. 37:1-18 / 19-42
Is. 45:5-17
Eph. 5:15-33
Mark 4:21-34

Fri, Jan 22

Ps. 31 / 35
Is. 45:18-25
Eph. 6:1-9
Mark 4:35-41

Sat, Jan 23

Ps. 30 / 42-43
Is. 46:1-13
Eph. 6:10-24
Mark 5:1-20

Sun, Jan 24

Sun, Jan 24
Ps. 63 / 103
John 5:2-18

Mon, Jan 25

Ps. 41 / 44
Is. 48:1-11
Gal. 1:1-17
Mark 5:21-43

Tue, Jan 26

Ps. 45 / 47-48
Is. 48:12-21
Gal. 1:18-2:10
Mark 6:1-13

Wed, Jan 27

Ps. 119:49-72 / 49
Is. 49:1-12
Gal. 2:11-21
Mark 6:13-29

DAILY LECTIONARY MEDITATIONS

Attend:

Take a few moments to sit quietly and scan the events of the previous day and the circumstances presented today. Pay attention to the inner conversations and words, both said and unsaid, that have occupied your heart and mind. Offer these cares to our Father, and in doing so, make space for his life-giving word to you.

Meditate:

Carefully read or listen to the passages from the Old and New Testaments.

What message is the author aiming to communicate?

What imagery does he use to convey his message?

What is God revealing or illuminating?

What questions do you have about either passage?

Why do you think these two texts were paired together in this season of Epiphany?

What do these particular scriptures have to say to those who would 'wear' the name of Christ?

Respond:

Consider the concerns and the words you offered to the Father a few minutes ago. How has his word been a light to your path and lamp to your way? How are the Father and the Son worthy of your believing loyalty, your affection, and your praise?