



ALL SAINTS

P R E S B Y T E R I A N

WOMEN'S STUDY

Wednesday, January 27

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.

THE HOUSEHOLD OF PRIDE

“REBEL SONS”

LORD OF THE HOUSE:

- The Devil - “the ‘Father of Lies’; who was a ‘Murderer from the start’” (Jn 8:44)
- Also known as: the Prince of the power of the air (Eph 2:2); the god of this world (2 Cor. 4:4); Baal-zebub (Mk 4); King of the Bottomless Pit; the Angel of the Abyss; Abaddon - the Destroyer (Rev. 9:11)

Life in a household ruled by a rebellious and proud false god (idol):

- seeking the approval of man over the approval of God (Gal. 1:10) believe + pledge their allegiance to a different gospel (Gal. 1:9)
- covetous of what they do not have - which is idolatry. (Eph. 5:5; Is. 45:9-11) each one plots and schemes how to get what they don't have and most want.
- all are sick, needing a physician (Mark 2:17)
- all are captives; slaves; “trapped in holes” (Is 42:22); and “prey” (Is. 49:24)
- all are tossed to and fro; anchored to nothing; terrified all are ‘sons of disobedience’ (Ephesians 4:4); children of wrath; ‘seed of the Serpent’ all are rebels; “will not walk in the way” and “will not obey” God’s word. (Is. 42:24)
- all are far off; cut off; alienated; no hope, and w/out God
- each one “walks like a dead man”
- the household of pride is marked by haughtiness, bitterness, pettiness, and revenge
- the family members wield words that are arrogant and contentious; speech that maligns, impunes, and slander those lesser, weaker, and not of importance
- everyone is busy wasting time; producing unfruitful work; plotting and scheming
- everyone is clamoring, clamoring, clamoring..
- their understanding is darkened and their minds are dull; their consciences are seared and unable to feel; they are stubborn of heart; closed off to new things
- they’ve been groomed and are now are greedy to practice sin
- disordered sexual desires and practices; calling good evil and evil good.
- crude; rude; drunk; threatening; power-hungry; they devise deeds done in secret
- dishonoring parents; demeaning and disrespecting their husbands and wives; provoking their children to anger; belittling and frustrating employees; canceling and shaming all who disagree...
- Deaf - cannot hear. Blind - cannot see. Stubborn - refuse to move. False.
- No discipline or instruction of children in the way they should go.
- “No peace for the wicked (the proud and rebellious)” (Is. 48:22)

THE HOUSEHOLD OF FREEDOM

“LOYAL SONS”

THE FATHER: God - who created all things in heaven and on earth. “Who is like Yahweh?”

THE LORD: Yeshua (Jesus Christ) - the faithful and begotten first-born Son.

- Also known as:
 - Israel's Redeemer; Holy One of Israel; King of Israel; LORD of hosts; Righteous Judge; Deliverer; Savior; Sin-Bearer (Is. 43:25); the Rock of Ages; The Name above all Names

Life in the household ruled by Yahweh and Yeshua:

- **‘Beloved children of light’**
- first-born sons; heirs to the kingdom; called by name; “precious in God’s eyes; honored; beloved” (Is. 43:4)
- Formed by God in the womb; “carried by God from womb to old age” (Is. 46:3-4)”
- I will contend with those who contend with you - and I will save your children” (Is. 49:25)
- growing up into the image of the Father (imitators of God); children who walk in a manner worthy of their Father's Name
- The Father ‘teaches them to profit and leads them in the way they should go” (Is. 48:17)
- Wedding guests (Mark 2)
- wise; humble, and responsive to the Father’s instruction; receive it with joy (Mark 4:16)
- patient; bearing with one another; kind to one another; tenderhearted
- Able to stand firm; rooted; secure
- speaking truth in love (X3); using speech that builds up
- every member equipped for good work and honest labor
- generous; quick to forgiving one another and pursue peace
- submitting to one another (out of reverence to Christ)
- marked by thankfulness; giving thanks always for everything
- making good use of given time
- pleased to discern God’s will; eager to do what is pleasing to the LORD
- respectful and gentle with one another; giving the benefit of the doubt
- honoring parents; disciplining and instructing children in the way they should go
- impartial and sincere; a “light to the nations” (Is. 49:6)
- cheerful ambassadors of the mystery of the gospel, even while in chains.
- All children have been given the power to plunder the strong man’s house (free those wrongfully enslaved)”
- grace be with all who love our LORD Jesus Christ with **love incorruptible**” (Eph. 6:23)

DECALOGUE

“NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME”

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

How are idols described? What is it like to ‘walk in their way’ and “sit at their seat”

How is Yahweh in relationship with Israel, the nations, and ‘other gods’? What about Jesus?

What did it mean for someone to ‘be saved’ or ‘found righteous’ in the Old Testament? New Testament? What did it look like to live in the household of God - then and now?

What is the mystery of the gospel that Paul feels called to boldly proclaim, even though he is “an ambassador in chains”? Compare Paul’s bondage to Legion’s.

The First Word is political. To whom will we pay homage?

Reflection Questions:

- Who is your "target audience" each day? What is it you want them to understand about you?
- Whose approval or disapproval informs the things you do and the way you live?
- What is it you want them to appreciate about you?
- Whose feedback has the power to move you and change your course? Whose word has the ability to create 'something new' in your life, or have you walk in a new or different way? Whose word promises to remove your ‘chains’?
- Whose opinion influences the way you work in this world? What is it that you want them to respect about you?
- Whose word would you be willing to submit to, even if you didn't fully agree?

But for us, there is one God, and one LORD, Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 8:6)

MAKER | DIVINE PARENT | SAVIOR | REDEEMER | SIN-BEARER (lamb) | KING |
LAWGIVER | JUDGE | SHEPHERD

NOTES:

Ancient Jericho

Towns became bigger as their populations increased. This made their architecture and urban planning more complex and they required more space to expand. The possibility of storing food surpluses meant that part of the population quit agricultural activities to devote their time to other things. At its peak, Jericho was a city of 10,000 people. The wealth of flourishing cities attracted greed of the nomadic tribes and forced their inhabitants to build protective walls around their cities. This was the case of Jericho, in the West Bank, Palestine. With the history of over 10,000 years, this was the first fortified city known ever and, up to the present day, it is considered the first city in history.

Jericho, the first one

Natufian hunter groups settled in this spot in 12,000 BC before it became the city of Jericho. Towards 9,400 BC, the settlement had more than 70 houses with around a thousand inhabitants and something unprecedented: a 3.5m highland almost 2m thick wall and a stone tower that reached a height of 8.5 m.

7000 BC

The round houses made with adobe, similar to igloos, were substituted by rectangular ones. Sanctuaries and ovens appeared.

Houses had stone foundations, clay brick structure, so on width walls and the roofs were covered with a mixture of reeds and clay.

Glory and collapse

The apparition of the Canaanites implied changes in house planning. This people absorbed the original culture and took Jericho to its most glorious times. According to archaeological records, the city was destroyed in 2300 BC to be re-founded in the 9th century BC.

Courtyards

The buildings usually had a central courtyard and were used to cool and venting smoke from entering inside the house.

Resources
There is evidence of cultivated plants and animals sheep herding since 7230 BC. There was a water canal system.

The Jordan River
Jericho was favored by the river and trade. Its walls became thicker and were surrounded by a moat.

Two storeys
Two storey houses had a working area in the first floor and the rooms on the second floor.



COMPARATIVE STUDY : SHELLEY MALACHOWSKI

"ANCIENT JERICHO"

(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 28-FEB 3

Thur, Jan 28

Ps. 50 / 118

Is. 49:13-23

Gal. 3:1-14

Mark 6:30-46

Fri, Jan 29

Ps. 54 / 51

Is. 50:1-11

Gal. 3:15-22

Mark 6:47-56

Sat, Jan 30

Ps. 55 / 138-139

Is. 51:1-8

Gal. 3:23-29

Mark 7:1-23

Sun, Jan 31

Ps. 24 / 84

John 7:14-31

Mon, Feb 1

Ps. 56-57 / 64-65

Is. 51:17-23

Gal. 4:1-11

Mark 7:24-37

Tue, Feb 2

Ps. 61-62 / 68

Is. 52:1-12

Gal. 4:12-20

Mark 8:1-10

Wed, Feb 3

Ps. 72 / 119:73-96

Is. 54:1-17

Gal. 4:21-31

Mark 8:11-26

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?