

Today:
December 7, 2014

Scripture Focus: Jeremiah 31:31-37

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Thus says the LORD, who gives the sun for light by day
and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night,
who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar—the LORD of hosts is his name:
If this fixed order were ever to cease from my presence, says the LORD,
then also the offspring of Israel would cease to be a nation before me forever.

Thus says the LORD:

If the heavens above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth below can be explored,
then I will reject all the offspring of Israel because of all they have done, says the LORD.

(Jeremiah 31:31-37, NRSV).

Notes from Worship:

How did God catch your attention? To what is God calling you this week?

Questions for Discussion:

- How has walking through the Old Testament in this Year of the Bible affected how you anticipate the Advent season and the coming of Christ?
- What clues in the prophetic readings have you seen that give hints of the type of Messiah the children of Israel were expecting?
- What clues have you seen that give hints of the type of Messiah Jesus chose to be?

This Week: **December 8-13**

Scripture Readings:

Monday 12/8	Tuesday 12/9	Wednesday 12/10	Thursday 12/11	Friday 12/12	Saturday 12/13
Psalm 7, 27, 31, 34, 52	Psalm 56, 120, 140-142	1 Samuel 25-27 Psalm 17, 73	Psalm 35, 54, 63, 18	1 Samuel 28-31 1 Chronicles 10	Psalm 121, 123- 125, 128-130

Questions for Reflection:

These questions are meant to help get you thinking about the readings for each day. Feel free to also use this space to jot down other questions and insights gleaned from your reading.

Monday

How do these Psalms take on new meaning after reading about David in 1 Samuel?

Tuesday

Which of these Psalms do you resonate with the most? Why?

Wednesday

Why does David spare Saul's life again? (1 Samuel 26)

What do you think of David's activities described in these chapters?

Thursday

What do you make of the violent language in these and other Psalms?

Friday

What do you think of Saul's distress in these chapters?

Saturday

How do these "songs of ascents" resonate with you today?

Taking Scripture to Heart:

As we move into Advent, Christmas and the life of Jesus, our memory texts change to the New Testament, beginning with **Hebrews 1:1-3a**. Let these verses dwell within you, to help you focus on Jesus Christ, the center of our faith.

Next Sunday: December 14

Theme: Advent – The forerunner of Jesus

Scripture Focus: Isaiah 40:1-11; Luke 3:1-18