

Devotional Diary for 12 - 18 January 2015

Readings for the 2nd Sunday after Epiphany, notes with thanks to www.gbod.org.

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20) Samuel had some difficulty responding to a call from God. The message with the call (verses 11-20) was even harder to deliver to one who had been a father and a mentor.

Psalm Response: **Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18.**

1 Corinthians 6:12-20. Paul confronts the ease with which some in the church in Corinth could justify using prostitutes. This is no mere economic arrangement, Paul reminds us. Just as in marriage we are made one with a spouse, so in baptism we have been made one with Christ. As spouses belong to and are united with each other, so we belong to and are united with Christ. We are to give glory and allegiance to the One to whom we belong.

John 1:43-51 Jesus calls Philip to follow him. Philip announces to Nathanael that he has found the one expected by Moses and the prophets. Nathanael is skeptical until Jesus tells him he was watching Nathanael as he was sitting under a fig tree.

(Additional thoughts on the texts as they might apply to your life are given on pages 3 and 4.)

Monday:

Adoration Focus: (Psalm 12:7) O Lord, you will keep us safe and protect us...

Confession: This week: Examining our expectations. Often we have the wrong expectations and we miss the work of God's Spirit in our midst because we are looking in the wrong place! This week spend time listing your expectations then ask God to reveal the work that He is doing around you. Then submit your expectations to God's ways. Pray that God will allow you to find joy in being part of His work, according to His plan and timing. "In His time, in His time, He makes all things beautiful in His time." Today's focus: Are my expectations self-centred?

The Word: See readings above and notes on readings or use your own reading plan.

Seeking the Kingdom

Shared Focus: This week pray for your church community at the start of the year. Pray for a sense of renewal and refreshing for all the members of your church.

Personal prayers: (Use this section to list people you need to pray for or situations of personal concern that you need to bring before God in prayer)

Dedication: "I have found my place of service and that is enough for anyone." (Albert Schweitzer)

Tuesday:

Adoration Focus: (Psalm 11:7) For the Lord is righteous, he loves justice...

Confession: See Monday's confession. Today's focus: Are my expectations part of the big picture?

The Word:

Seeking the Kingdom:

Shared Focus: This week pray for your church community at the start of the year. Pray that those who are fence-sitting may make a decision for Christ that would get them "running the race with determination"!

Personal Prayers:

Dedication: "I have found my place of service and that is enough for anyone." (Albert Schweitzer)

Wednesday:

Adoration Focus: (Psalm 10:16) The Lord is king forever and ever...

Confession: See Monday's confession. Today's focus: Am I willing to work as a team in the Kingdom of God?

The Word:

Seeking the Kingdom:

Shared Focus: This week pray for your church community at the start of the year. Pray that those who are paralysed by hurts and rejection may find courage to move towards healing, forgiveness and be freed to live well.

Personal prayers:

Dedication: "I have found my place of service and that is enough for anyone." (Albert Schweitzer)

Thursday:

Adoration Focus: (Psalm 9:1) I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonders.

Confession: See Monday's confession. Today's focus: Are God's expectations the better way to go?

The Word:

Seeking the Kingdom:

Shared Focus: This week pray for your church community at the start of the year. Pray that Christ may be your church's Alpha and Omega (beginning and end)!

Personal prayers:

Dedication: "I have found my place of service and that is enough for anyone." (Albert Schweitzer)

Friday:

Adoration Focus: (Psalm 8:1) O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Confession: See Monday's confession. Today's focus: Am I brave enough to wrestle with the 'Kingdom of God' vision.

The Word:

Seeking the Kingdom:

Shared Focus: This week pray for your church community at the start of the year. Pray that God may give your church members people a deep realisation of the importance of reaching out for Christ.

Personal prayers:

Dedication: "I have found my place of service and that is enough for anyone." (Albert Schweitzer)

Saturday:

Adoration Focus: (Psalm 7:10) My shield is God most high...

Confession: See Monday's confession. Today's focus: God's expectations: true joy, love, life, healing, justice, righteousness, peace etc.

The Word:

Seeking the Kingdom:

Shared Focus: This week pray for your church community at the start of the year. Pray that God may lead your church's members to be sensitive to people in need; to care and love and not to manipulate as we reach out to them.

Personal prayers:

Dedication: "I have found my place of service and that is enough for anyone." (Albert Schweitzer)

Sunday:

Adoration Focus: (Psalm 6:9) The Lord has heard my cry for mercy; the Lord accepts my prayer.

Confession: See Monday's confession. Today's focus: Trusting God: 'I am no longer my own but yours...'

The Word:

Seeking the Kingdom:

Shared Focus: This week pray for your church community at the start of the year. Pray that God may touch the hearts of those who will be in the worship services today.

Personal prayers:

Dedication: "I have found my place of service and that is enough for anyone." (Albert Schweitzer)

Weekly Rhythm

Joining our stories with the stories of God's people.

Rhythm of Worship // www.jamesnicolson.co.za

In our spiritual tradition there is a daily, weekly and seasonal (yearly) cycle, all working together to breathe God's life into us and connect us in a worshipful relationship with our Creator. This resource explores these rhythms from the perspective of the Christian Year (using the Revised Common Lectionary). It is aimed at those who want to journey with these texts in a transformational way, particularly from a worship perspective. Each week we will share around the set texts as they inspire our daily, weekly and yearly rhythms.

Additional information about the readings: (Notes in italics are with thanks to www.gbod.org.)

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20) *Samuel had some difficulty responding to a call from God. The message with the call (verses 11-20) was even harder to deliver to one who had been a father and a mentor.*

When have you sensed God voice speaking to you?
How do you respond to this voice of God?

"A child once dreamed the Voice was calling his name. . . 'Samuel';
Fishermen once heard the Voice when a young man bid them follow;
And still the Voice beckons today. . . can you hear?

Here I am. Send me.

Moses protested vehemently as the Voice spoke at the burning bush;
Mary stood amazed as the Voice proclaimed impending birth;
And still the Voice beckons today. . . can you hear?

Here I am. Send me.

Rosa Parks followed the Voice to the front of the bus;
Martin Luther King, Jr. heard the Voice as the bullet shattered;
And still the Voice beckons today. . . can you hear?

Here I am. Send me.

The Voice beckons from humble places. . .
in the tears of hungry children,
in the cries of the frail and frightened elderly,
in the pleas of those whose dreams have been too long deferred;
and still the Voice beckons today. . . can you hear?

Here I am. Send me.

A timid believer pauses to listen to the Voice;
A struggling church hears the Voice and turns;
and still the Voice beckons today. . . can you hear?

Here I am. Send me.

— written by Katherine Hawker, and posted on her **Liturgy Outside** website.

Psalm Response: **Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18.**

Use the prayer below to allow this psalm to speak into your life.

“God, you know us better than we know ourselves.
You know our thoughts,
our weaknesses,
our motivations,
our sins.
And you love us still.
Forgive us when we don't believe such love is true or
possible;
When we wonder how You could love us just as we are,
when we forget our intricate construction,
fearfully,

wonderfully made,
in Your image!
Remove from our minds every thought which keeps us
from you.
Break down the walls,
push aside the pride,
and help us to trust anew.
You know our hearts.
And you love us still.
Amen.

[1 Corinthians 6:12-20](#). Paul confronts the ease with which some in the church in Corinth could justify using prostitutes. This is no mere economic arrangement, Paul reminds. Just as in marriage we are made one with a spouse, so in baptism we have been made one with Christ. As spouses belong to and are united with each other, so we belong to and are united with Christ. We are to give glory and allegiance to the One to whom we belong.

The things we connect with shape our lives. How is this dangerous? How is this life giving?
(Use the litany below to identify life-giving connections)

“For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. (3:11)

The foundation for blessing and grace.

The foundation for our unity.

I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. (1:3, 4)

The source of wisdom.

The source of our ministry and teaching.

God is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption. (1:30)

What is God's wisdom for human sexuality, legal disputes, marriage, singleness, widowhood, food sacrificed to idols?

What is God's wisdom for testing and temptation?

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God,

and that you are not your own?

For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body. (6:19-20)

How do we glorify God in what we wear for worship, how we celebrate the Lord's Supper?

How do we recognize and release the gifts of the Spirit for the common good?

And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three, and the greatest of these is love. (13:13)

Let us receive and proclaim the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Let us give thanks for this life and for the resurrection of the dead.

Death has been swallowed up in victory.

Where, O death is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting? (15:54-55)

For Jesus Christ is our sure foundation.

For Jesus Christ is our sure foundation.

“The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you.” (16:23)

~ written by April Yamasaki, and posted on the website of [Emmanuel Mennonite Church](#).

[John 1:43-51](#) Jesus calls Philip to follow him. Philip announces to Nathanael that he has found the one expected by Moses and the prophets. Nathanael is sceptical until Jesus tells him he was watching Nathanael as he was sitting under a fig tree.

Come and See! (Inspired by John 1: 38-39, John 1:46)

Come and see, come and see!

We come to see for ourselves who this Jesus person is.

Come and see, come and see!

We come with open hearts to experience Jesus

Come and see, come and see!

We come to follow Jesus

Come and see, come and see!

We come to deepen our relationship with God.

Come and see, come and see!

Yes, Lord we come to follow you!

~ posted on [Lutheran Retreats, Camps, and Conferences](#).

Have you come and seen who Jesus is?

And how have you responded to what you have seen and heard?