

Daily Rhythm

Making worship part of the everyday
Rhythm of Worship // www.jamesnicolson.co.za

Devotional Diary 16 - 22 March 2015

Lectionary Readings for this week (thanks to www.gbod.org) This is the fifth Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34. God's new covenant requires no stone tablets. It will be a covenant written in the people's hearts, informing everything in their whole lives.

Psalms 51:1-12. A reprise of the confession of sin from Ash Wednesday. Today the focus is verse 6 -- "therefore, teach me wisdom in my secret heart."

Hebrews 5:5-10. Jesus is our great high priest by God's appointment and made perfect through his obedience and suffering.

John 12:20-33. Jesus tells Phillip and Andrew that the time for his glorification; i.e., his execution is drawing near and that those who serve him will be found with him wherever he leads or goes. God ratifies the message with a sound from heaven, which Jesus interprets as a sign that the present spiritual regime's days are about to come to an end.

Monday:

Adoration Focus: 1 John 1:5: "This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all."

Confession: Lord, forgive us when we have looked at suffering through hardened eyes; give us your eyes of love.

The Word: Use the Revised Common Lectionary readings above or your own scripture reading plan.

Seeking the Kingdom:

Shared Focus: Lord, we pray for all who have crossed boundaries to go out in mission in the name of Christ. We pray that we may learn from their courage and sense of mission.

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: O Christ, the Master Carpenter who at the last, through wood and nails, purchased our whole salvation, wield well your tools in the workshop of your world, so that we, who come rough-hewn to your bench, may here be fashioned to a truer beauty by your hand. We ask it for your name's sake. (Source unknown)

Tuesday:

Adoration Focus: 1 John 2:2: "He (*Jesus Christ*) is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only ours but also for the sins of the whole world."

Confession: Lord, forgive us when we have looked at the poor through hardened eyes, give us your eyes of love.

The Word:

Seeking the Kingdom:

Shared Focus: Lord, we pray for all who have crossed boundaries and reached out to people different from themselves. We pray that we may learn from their compassion and care.

Dedication: O Christ, the Master Carpenter who at the last, through wood and nails, purchased our whole salvation, wield well your tools in the workshop of your world, so that we, who come rough-hewn to your bench, may here be fashioned to a truer beauty by your hand. We ask it for your name's sake. (Source unknown)

Wednesday:

Adoration Focus: 1 John 3:1: "How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!"

Confession: Lord, forgive us when we have looked at our neighbour through hardened eyes, give us your eyes of love.

The Word:

Seeking the Kingdom:

Shared Focus: We pray for all who have crossed boundaries and shared their faith and witnessed in difficult circumstances. We pray that we may learn from their conviction and calling.

Personal prayers:

Dedication: O Christ, the Master Carpenter who at the last, through wood and nails, purchased our whole salvation, wield well your tools in the workshop of your world, so that we, who come rough-hewn to your bench, may here be fashioned to a truer beauty by your hand. We ask it for your name's sake. (Source unknown)

Thursday:

Adoration Focus: 1 John 3:16: "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us."

Confession: Lord, forgive us when we have looked at those close to us through hardened eyes, give us your eyes of love.

The Word:

Seeking the Kingdom:

Shared Focus: We pray for all who have crossed boundaries and cared for the poor and those lacking resources. We pray that we may learn from their concern and generosity.

Personal prayers:

Dedication: O Christ, the Master Carpenter who at the last, through wood and nails, purchased our whole salvation, wield well your tools in the workshop of your world, so that we, who come rough-hewn to your bench, may here be fashioned to a truer beauty by your hand. We ask it for your name's sake. (Source unknown)

Friday:

Adoration Focus: 1 John 4:8: "Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love."

Confession: Lord, forgive us when we have looked at those of other races through hardened eyes, give us your eyes of love.

The Word:

Seeking the Kingdom:

Shared Focus: We pray for those who have crossed boundaries and have cared for and loved those of another generation. We pray that we may learn from their empathy.

Personal prayers:

Dedication: O Christ, the Master Carpenter who at the last, through wood and nails, purchased our whole salvation, wield well your tools in the workshop of your world, so that we, who come rough-hewn to your bench, may here be fashioned to a truer beauty by your hand. We ask it for your name's sake. (Source unknown)

Saturday:

Adoration Focus: 1 John 5:11: "And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son."

Confession: Lord, forgive us when we have looked at the young through hardened eyes, give us your eyes of love.

The Word:

Seeking the Kingdom:

Shared Focus: We pray for those who have crossed boundaries and have learnt to give with a generous spirit. Pray that we may learn from their sense of self-sacrifice.

Personal prayers:

Dedication: O Christ, the Master Carpenter who at the last, through wood and nails, purchased our whole salvation, wield well your tools in the workshop of your world, so that we, who come rough-hewn to your bench, may here be fashioned to a truer beauty by your hand. We ask it for your name's sake. (Source unknown)

Sunday:

Adoration Focus: 2 John 3: "Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, will be with us in truth and love."

Confession: Lord, forgive us when we have looked at ourselves through hardened eyes, give us your eyes of love.

The Word:

Seeking the Kingdom:

Shared Focus: We pray for all who have crossed boundaries and learnt to worship God. Pray that we may learn from their ability to look beyond themselves to see the greatness of God.

Personal prayers:

Dedication: O Christ, the Master Carpenter who at the last, through wood and nails, purchased our whole salvation, wield well your tools in the workshop of your world, so that we, who come rough-hewn to your bench, may here be fashioned to a truer beauty by your hand. We ask it for your name's sake. (Source unknown)

Weekly Rhythm

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

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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.

Prayers to help you apply the readings: (The notes in italics are with thanks to www.gbod.org.)

[Jeremiah 31:31-34](#) *God's new covenant requires no stone tablets. It will be a covenant written in the people's hearts, informing everything in their whole lives.*

Declaration of Grace / Absolution

(inspired by Jeremiah 31: 31-34)

The Lord comes to us with a new covenant, saying:

"I will write my law on your hearts;
I will forgive your wrongdoing
and remember your sins no more."

Sisters and Brothers,
your sins are forgiven;
be at peace.

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[Psalm 51:1-12](#) *A reprise of the confession of sin from Ash Wednesday. Today the focus is verse 6 -- "therefore, teach me wisdom in my secret heart."*

Prayer

(based on Psalm 51)

Mercy! Have mercy on me, O God Almighty!
I appeal to your unconditional love that never fails;
Forgive my sin because of your enormous compassion.
Wash away all my badness and make me clean.

All my sins are against you, my Lord -
Again I didn't trust you, I turned away and did wrong.
You alone are holy and you alone can cleanse me;
Please let me rejoice in you again!

Form my heart to be devoted to you alone, O God,
And revive my spirit to be steadfast in loving you.
Remind me continually that I'm in your presence;
O that your Holy Spirit would thrive in me forever!
Restore my soul with the joy of your mercy
And strengthen my will to seek you continually.

My divided and distracted will is all that I have to give you;
So I come with my broken heart, humble and convicted.
O God, because of your mercy you will not reject me;
Your smile and your embrace means everything to me!
My reformed heart gives praise to you for all to hear;
O Lord, this is the offering that brings you delight!

[Hebrews 5:5-10](#) *Jesus is our great high priest by God's appointment and made perfect through his obedience and suffering.*

Prayer

(inspired by Hebrews 4:14-16; Hebrews 5:7-10)

Father, O God most high,
who dwells in the highest of heavens,
we praise you.

Father, O Lord most exalted,
beyond our thoughts and imaginations,
we praise you.

We celebrate the victory of your Son,
who has overcome death
and saved us from the power of sin.
We rejoice in his exaltation!

Our great high priest
has gone before,
has entered into the Holy of Holies,
and has opened up a way for us to follow.
In his name, we too would enter into your eternal presence,
for he is our priest forever
after the order of Melchizedek.
**To him be all praise,
together with you, O Father,
and the Holy Spirit,
one Lord, the same in every age.**
Amen and Amen.

~ Hughes Oliphant Old, *Leading in Prayer: A Workbook for Ministers*

<http://www.amazon.com/Leading-Prayer-A-Workbook-Ministers/dp/0802808212>.

[John 12:20-33](#) *Jesus tells Phillip and Andrew that the time for his glorification; i.e., his execution is drawing near and that those who serve him will be found with him wherever he leads or goes. God ratifies the message with a sound from heaven, which Jesus interprets as a sign that the present spiritual regime's days are about to come to an end.*

A Prayer of St. Ignatius

*"Whoever serves me must follow me,
and where I am, there will my servant be also."* John 12:26

Jesus, teach me to be generous,
to serve you as you deserve:
to give without counting the cost,
to fight needlessly of the wounds,
to work and not seek for rest,
to toil and not seek for reward,
save the reward of knowing I am doing your will. Amen.

— St. Ignatius of Loyola. Posted on the **Canadian Foodgrains Bank** "Weekly Prayer" page.
Check that website for other good prayers and resources for worship.