

Daily Rhythm

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

Devotional Diary 20 - 26 July 2015

Readings for this week with thanks to www.umcdiscipleship.org:

2 Samuel 11:1-15. A king like all the nations, even one "after God's own heart," may be thoroughly corrupt. Today we read the saga of King David's failure to lead his troops into battle, his adultery with Bathsheba, his failure to compensate Uriah for adulterating his wife, and his order to have Uriah placed on the frontlines and abandoned to slaughter.

Psalm 14. A cry for deliverance from corruption all around and a recognition that only God, and no mere mortal, can provide what is needed.

Ephesians 3:14-21. The lectionary leaves out the preceding verses that make sense of this passage (verses 1-13). The reason that the writer bends the knee before the Father is the revelation of the mystery that God will use the church as the means to make one new humanity out of the two (Gentile and Jew). That is why he prays that they may be "filled with all the fullness of God" -- that they may live out the fullness of the calling to which they have been called.

John 6:1-21. John's version of the feeding of the 5000 and Jesus walking on the water to meet the disciples as they row in vain against wind and waves.

Monday:

Adoration Focus: Each day focus on a small miracle that will lead you into praising God. **Suggestion:** Colour
Confession: What barriers are preventing you from serving God in this world? Each day bring your life to God asking to be set free so that you can respond to his call on your life. **Today's focus:** Being set free from blaming others.
The Word: See readings above or use your own devotional aids.

Seeking the Kingdom

Shared Focus: Visualise God's loving reign in our world today and pray that His will may be done in some specific way to express His Kingdom. **Today's focus:** Peace (Shalom)

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: Lord, set me free that I may respond to your call upon my life and serve you in the day ahead.

Tuesday:

Adoration Focus: Each day focus on a small miracle that will lead you into praising God. **Suggestion:** birth
Confession: See Monday's confession. **Today's focus:** Being set free from prejudice.

The Word:

Seeking the Kingdom:

Shared Focus: Visualise God's loving reign in our world today and pray that His will may be done in some specific way to express His Kingdom. **Today's focus:** Care and love.

Personal Prayers:

Dedication: Lord, set me free that I may respond to your call upon my life and serve you in the day ahead.

Wednesday:

Adoration Focus: Each day focus on a small miracle that will lead you into praising God. **Suggestion:** variety
Confession: See Monday's confession. **Today's focus:** Being set free from anger.

The Word:

Seeking the Kingdom:

Shared Focus: Visualise God's loving reign in our world today and pray that His will may be done in some specific way to express His Kingdom. **Today's focus:** Transformation.

Personal prayers:

Dedication: Lord, set me free that I may respond to your call upon my life and serve you in the day ahead.

Thursday:

Adoration Focus: Each day focus on a small miracle that will lead you into praising God. Suggestion: nature

Confession: See Monday's confession. Today's focus: Being set free from guilt.

The Word:

Seeking the Kingdom:

Shared Focus: Visualise God's loving reign in our world today and pray that His will may be done in some specific way to express His Kingdom. Today's focus: Justice.

Personal prayers:

Dedication: Lord, set me free that I may respond to your call upon my life and serve you in the day ahead.

Friday:

Adoration Focus: Each day focus on a small miracle that will lead you into praising God. Suggestion: Energy

Confession: See Monday's confession. Today's focus: Being set free from bitterness and unforgiveness.

The Word:

Seeking the Kingdom:

Shared Focus: Visualise God's loving reign in our world today and pray that his will may be done in some specific way to express His Kingdom. Today's focus: Equity and fairness.

Personal prayers:

Dedication: Lord, set me free that I may respond to your call upon my life and serve you in the day ahead.

Saturday:

Adoration Focus: Each day focus on a small miracle that will lead you into praising God. Suggestion: Love

Confession: See Monday's confession. Today's focus: being set free from: being overwhelmed and paralyzed.

The Word:

Seeking the Kingdom:

Shared Focus: Visualise God's loving reign in our world today and pray that his will may be done in some specific way to express His Kingdom. Today's focus: Mercy and Grace.

Personal prayers:

Dedication: Lord, set me free that I may respond to your call upon my life and serve you in the day ahead.

Sunday:

Adoration Focus: Each day focus on a small miracle that will lead you into praising God. Suggestion: God with you.

Confession: See Monday's confession. Today's focus: Being set free from hurt.

The Word:

Seeking the Kingdom:

Shared Focus: Visualise God's loving reign in our world today and pray that his will may be done in some specific way to express His Kingdom. Today's focus: Worship and honouring God.

Personal prayers:

Dedication: Lord, set me free that I may respond to your call upon my life and serve you in the day ahead.

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.

Sunday 26 July is the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost (Ordinary Time), Year B

Questions and prayers to explore readings:

(Notes in italics are with thanks to www.umcdiscipleship.org.)

As you read remember the three basic questions: What does the passage say? What does the passage mean? How does it apply to my life?

2 Samuel 11:1-15. *A king like all the nations, even one "after God's own heart," may be thoroughly corrupt. Today we read the saga of King David's failure to lead his troops into battle, his adultery with Bathsheba, his failure to compensate Uriah for adulterating his wife, and his order to have Uriah placed on the frontlines and abandoned to slaughter.*

Prayer (2 Samuel)

David loved Jonathon

yet he wore the uniform of Jonathon's killer.

David danced for joy in the streets

while Michal bore witness to his drunken excess.

David's power and status grew

as did his scorn of the blind and the lame.

David wanted to build a temple

thus proving his devotion.

David built a legacy of broken lives

thus proving his culpability.

We are David,

mourning the loss of our love and our innocence.

We are David,

guilty of exploiting those entrusted to our care.

We are David,

unexpected hero and unrepentant scoundrel.

We are David,

we belong to God.

~ written by Katherine Hawker, on [Liturgy Outside](http://liturgyoutside.net/). <http://liturgyoutside.net/>

Psalms 14. *A cry for deliverance from corruption all around and a recognition that only God, and no mere mortal, can provide what is needed.*

Prayer (inspired by Psalm 14)

The foolish say, 'there is no God.'

We come, trusting in Jesus,

the face, the voice, the presence of the God who loves us.

The scoffers of our age ask, 'why do you seek after God?'

We come, in this time,

because God's grace has spilled over in our lives.

The hopeless around us think, 'no one cares about me.'

We come, in this time, to this place,

because Jesus has found us and brought us home.

~ written by Thom Shuman, and posted on [Lectioary Litanies](http://lectionarylitanies.blogspot.ca/). <http://lectionarylitanies.blogspot.ca/>

[Ephesians 3:14-21](#). *The lectionary leaves out the preceding verses that make sense of this passage (verses 1-13). The reason that the writer bends the knee before the Father is the revelation of the mystery that God will use the church as the means to make one new humanity out of the two (Gentile and Jew). That is why he prays that they may be "filled with all the fullness of God" -- that they may live out the fullness of the calling to which they have been called.*

Prayer (based on Ephesians 3:16-21, *The Message*)
I ask God to strengthen you by the power of the Spirit—
not a brute strength but a glorious inner strength—
that Christ will live in you as you open the door and invite him in.

And I ask God that
with both feet planted firmly on love
you'll be able to take in with all Christians
the extravagant dimensions of Christ's love.

Reach out and experience the breadth!
Test its length!
Plumb the depths!
Rise to the heights!
Live full lives—full in the fullness of God.

God can do anything, you know—
far more than you could ever imagine or guess
or request in your wildest dreams!
Not by pushing us around
but by working within us,
through the power of God's Spirit.

All glory to the God of Creation!
All glory to the Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ!
And all glory to the Spirit of God, at work among us and within us!

Go in the love of God!
Amen.

[John 6:1-21](#). *John's version of the feeding of the 5000 and Jesus walking on the water to meet the disciples as they row in vain against wind and waves.*

Prayer (inspired by Matthew 14:15-21, Mark 6:35-44, Luke 9:12-17, John 6:1-15)

*Five loaves and two fish
are never enough
until you start
giving it away.*

Dear God,
Remind me to
share
whatever
is in my basket
today.
You will do the rest.
Amen.