

Daily Rhythm

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

Devotional Diary 13 - 19 July 2015

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

2 Samuel 7: 1-14a. David tells Nathan his intentions to build a permanent house for the God of Israel, and Nathan initially approves. That night, God tells Nathan that David is not to build a house for God, but that God will build a house (dynasty) for David.

Psalms 89:20-37. A poetic, musical version of God's promise/covenant to establish David's throne.

Ephesians 2:11-22. God intends to enact reconciliation through the church by bringing divided humanity (Jews and Gentiles) into one new humanity in Jesus Christ.

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56. Another "story within a story," but this week's reading skips the "inner story." The story of the disciples' return from their mission (last week) and continuation in ministry with Jesus is "interrupted" by the feeding of the 5000.

Monday:

Adoration Focus: "Praise Him, praise Him in the morning, praise Him in the noontime, Praise Him, Praise Him, praise him till the break of day." Each day praise God for something specific. Carry that praise in your heart through the day. Reflect on how that changes your day.

Confession: "Lord, I cast all my cares onto you..." What care do you need to lift to God today? Reflect on what God does for you when you lift up that specific care. Today's Focus: Your past.

The Word: See readings above or use your own devotional aid.

Seeking the Kingdom

Shared Focus: This week we pray for loved ones. Each day pray for a specific person as you are prompted.

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: "Let your Spirit rise within me."

Tuesday:

Adoration Focus: "Praise Him, praise Him in the morning, praise Him in the noontime, Praise Him, Praise Him, praise him till the break of day." Each day praise God for something specific. Carry that praise in your heart through the day. Reflect on how that changes your day. Today's Focus: Your present.

Confession: "Lord, I cast all my cares onto you..." What care do you need to lift to God today? Reflect on what God does for you when you lift up that specific care.

The Word:

Seeking the Kingdom:

Shared Focus: This week we pray for loved ones. Each day pray for a specific person as you are prompted.

Personal Prayers:

Dedication: "Let your Spirit rise within me."

Wednesday:

Adoration Focus: "Praise Him, praise Him in the morning, praise Him in the noontime, Praise Him, Praise Him, praise him till the break of day." Each day praise God for something specific. Carry that praise in your heart through the day. Reflect on how that changes your day.

Confession: "Lord, I cast all my cares onto you..." What care do you need to lift to God today? Reflect on what God does for you when you lift up that specific care. Today's Focus: Your future.

The Word:

Seeking the Kingdom:

Shared Focus: This week we pray for loved ones. Each day pray for a specific person as you are prompted.

Personal prayers:

Dedication: "Let your Spirit rise within me."

Thursday:

Adoration Focus: "Praise Him, praise Him in the morning, praise Him in the noontime, Praise Him, Praise Him, praise him till the break of day." Each day praise God for something specific. Carry that praise in your heart through the day. Reflect on how that changes your day.

Confession: "Lord, I cast all my cares onto you..." What care do you need to lift to God today? Reflect on what God does for you when you lift up that specific care. Today's Focus: Your family.

The Word:

Seeking the Kingdom:

Shared Focus: This week we pray for loved ones. Each day pray for a specific person as you are prompted.

Personal prayers:

Dedication: "Let your Spirit rise within me."

Friday:

Adoration Focus: "Praise Him, praise Him in the morning, praise Him in the noontime, Praise Him, Praise Him, praise him till the break of day." Each day praise God for something specific. Carry that praise in your heart through the day. Reflect on how that changes your day.

Confession: "Lord, I cast all my cares onto you..." What care do you need to lift to God today? Reflect on what God does for you when you lift up that specific care. Today's Focus: Your friends.

The Word:

Seeking the Kingdom:

Shared Focus: This week we pray for loved ones. Each day pray for a specific person as you are prompted.

Personal prayers:

Dedication: "Let your Spirit rise within me."

Saturday:

Adoration Focus: "Praise Him, praise Him in the morning, praise Him in the noontime, Praise Him, Praise Him, praise him till the break of day." Each day praise God for something specific. Carry that praise in your heart through the day. Reflect on how that changes your day.

Confession: "Lord, I cast all my cares onto you..." What care do you need to lift to God today? Reflect on what God does for you when you lift up that specific care. Today's Focus: Your country.

The Word:

Seeking the Kingdom:

Shared Focus: This week we pray for loved ones. Each day pray for a specific person as you are prompted.

Personal prayers:

Dedication: "Let your Spirit rise within me."

Sunday:

Adoration Focus: "Praise Him, praise Him in the morning, praise Him in the noontime, Praise Him, Praise Him, praise him till the break of day." Each day praise God for something specific. Carry that praise in your heart through the day. Reflect on how that changes your day.

Confession: "Lord, I cast all my cares onto you..." What care do you need to lift to God today? Reflect on what God does for you when you lift up that specific care. Today's Focus: Your world.

The Word:

Seeking the Kingdom:

Shared Focus: This week we pray for loved ones. Each day pray for a specific person as you are prompted.

Personal prayers:

Dedication: "Let your Spirit rise within me."

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 19 July is the Eighth 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 7: 1-14a. *David tells Nathan his intentions to build a permanent house for the God of Israel, and Nathan initially approves. That night, God tells Nathan that David is not to build a house for God, but that God will build a house (dynasty) for David.*

Sometimes now is not the right moment for a good idea. Can you think of an example of this? What attitude does this kind of situation require from us?

Psalms 89:20-37. *A poetic, musical version of God's promise/covenant to establish David's throne.*

If this psalm were about you, how would it tell your story?

Prayer: The life of David

O God,
sustain us in the complexity of our humanity
as you sustained David--
playing the harp of youth,
throwing stones at giant problems,
loving our friends beyond wisdom,
dancing worship,
mourning children,
breaking our hearts in psalms, and
longing for warmth in our old bones. Amen.

~ from **Revised Common Lectionary Prayers** copyright © 2002 Consultation on Common Texts admin. Augsburg Fortress. Posted on **Thematic, Intercessory and Scripture Prayers for the RCL**, Vanderbilt Divinity Library.

Prayer (based on Psalm 89)

Happy are we who hear the joyful call to worship,
for we walk in the light of God's presence!
Let's worship God together—
celebrating who he is and all that he has done!
For God is our strength and our protection,
the One in whom we trust.

~ by Christine Lindquist <http://re-worship.blogspot.ca>

Ephesians 2:11-22. *God intends to enact reconciliation through the church by bringing divided humanity (Jews and Gentiles) into one, new humanity in Jesus Christ.*

Prayer to be a reconciler

God, we are aliens and sojourners in this world,
but you invite us to be your guests.
You lavishly offer us your hospitality
and lovingly welcome us into your family,
You invite us to share in the abundance of your kingdom.

God, you have shown us that providing hospitality to strangers
opens a doorway into the Kingdom of God.
Remind us that when we offer hospitality to others,
we are receiving Christ into our midst and so fulfilling the law of love.

**We open our hearts to embrace the stranger, the friend, the rich, and the poor,
We open our lives to offer a generous heart toward all.**

~ adapted from *A Litany of Hospitality* written by Christine Sine. Posted on **Word Made Flesh**. <http://www.wordmadeflesh.org/argentina/2009/06/a-litany-of-hospitality/>

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56. *Another "story within a story," but this week's reading skips the "inner story." The story of the disciples' return from their mission (last week) and continuation in ministry with Jesus is "interrupted" by the feeding of the 5000.*

Jesus is interrupted, what guides him in his response? How does his mission continue in the face of demands and pressure?

Prayer

"And he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd...." Mark 6:34

Compassionate God,
You have compassion enough for all.
Lord in your mercy,
Have compassion for us.

Jesus, out of your compassion for us,
you invite us to come away with you
to a place of rest and quiet.
Help us to say yes and then
to be able to come away with you.
Lord in your mercy,
Have compassion for us.

Lord, out of your compassion you care for
Those who are harassed, helpless, and
Lost. Sometimes we feel that way ourselves
Lord in your mercy,
Have compassion for us.

Lord in your compassion teach us to follow you,
to trust you, to love you and to love as you love.
Lord in your compassion feed us who are hungry;
Physically, emotionally, and spiritually.
Lord in your compassion heal us in the places we
need healed.
Lord in your mercy,
Have compassion for us.

And Lord in your having compassion for us
Teach us to have compassion for others as you
do.
Help us to show compassion in action the way
you did.
And remind us when it is time to come away with
you
for quiet and rest.
Lord in your mercy,
Have compassion for us.