

Pacific Union Church Connect (January 4 – 10, 2021 – Week of Epiphany – Year 2)

A life connected to God through daily Bible reading and prayer (for more info visit: pacificunionconnect.com)

How to pray the Psalms. Read the psalm slowly, turn it over in your mind and follow the prayer point into a time of prayer.

Instructions for Bible Reading – Listen. Respond. Share. Pick one of the three readings assigned for the day (Gospel, New and Old Testament). Read the passage slowly and then answer the following questions:

Listen. What is the passage saying? What are the main points? What does it say about God? What does it say about us?

Respond. If this is God’s to me, how will I respond? Here are some possibilities: Is He moving me to do something? Is He calling me to repent? Is there an area of my life where I needed to trust him? Is God moving me to worship Him? Is there something here that makes me thankful to God?

(Scripture references are from New International Version [1984] -- NIV)

Monday 1/4	Tuesday 1/5	Wednesday 1/6	Thursday 1/7	Friday 1/8	Saturday 1/9	Sunday 1/10
<p>Psalm: 85</p> <p>Meditation: Ephesians Paul uses a lot of imagery in his letters. Every thought and act can either bring us closer to Christ or draw us a little further into darkness. Everything that we do and say should be a reflection of the light of Christ, even with those who we feel the most relaxed with. A spirit of thanksgiving should be the source of all that we say or do. How often do you think you step into the Darkness when you could be walking in the Light?</p> <p>Gospel: John 9:1-12, 35-38 New Testament: Ephesians 5:1-20 Old Testament: Joshua 3:14-4:7</p>	<p>Psalm: 2</p> <p>Meditation: Jonah Jonah spent three days and nights inside the fish by the time he says this prayer. This is Jonah’s repentance. We don’t know what happened during those days. Three days of total solitude in darkness will alter the attitude of any person. It shouldn’t take three days of forced meditation for us to realize how much we need God’s forgiveness and mercy. This is a prayer that we should be praying daily.</p> <p>Gospel: John 11:17-27, 38-44 New Testament: Ephesians 6:10-20 Old Testament: Jonah 2:2-9</p>	<p>Epiphany</p> <p>Psalm: 97</p> <p>Meditation: Matthew Israel had been expecting a mighty warrior to ride into Jerusalem one day and kick all of the Romans and non-Jewish people out of the city. Apparently, they had forgotten that Isaiah had prophesied that the Messiah would not be noticeable until he established justice on earth. “...a smoldering wick he will not snuff out.” How quiet and soft of movement do you have to be to not snuff out a smoldering wick? That’s how quietly Jesus came.</p> <p>Gospel: Matthew 12:14-21 New Testament: Revelation 21:22-27 Old Testament: Isaiah 52:7-10</p>	<p>Psalm: 103</p> <p>Meditation: Colossians Paul and Timothy are praising the church at Colossae for their faith and love. They pray that God fills the church with wisdom and understanding of the Spirit. That they live lives worthy of God and bear fruit in every good work that they do, and give joyful thanks to God for all that he has done and will do for us. I have never seen a better picture of what a good Christian should look like. May we pray this for every person that we meet</p> <p>Gospel: John 6:30-33,48-51 New Testament: Colossians 1:1-14 Old Testament: Deuteronomy 8:1-3</p>	<p>Psalm: 113</p> <p>Meditation: Exodus The Israelites had a knack for testing Moses’ and God’s patience. Of course, they would wonder if God planned kill them. God only saved them from slavery, parted the Red and released the waves onto the Egyptian army, lead them across the desert with flame and cloud, created bread from dew while they wandered... It sounds ridiculous that the Israelites would question God, but they did, and so do we. We have the entire Bible and we still doubt God. Why is it so difficult to believe?</p> <p>Gospel: John 7:37-52 New Testament: Colossians 1:15-23 Old Testament: Exodus 17:1-7</p>	<p>Psalm: 121, 122, 123</p> <p>Meditation: John While Jesus specifies that he does not judge, if he did, his judgments would be in conjunction with God the Father. According to the legal system referenced in the passage, the testimony of two witnesses is true, making any testimony made by Jesus the truth. If everything Jesus says can be taken a complete truth, what does that mean for us? What should we do with the knowledge that everything teaching is testimony from both Christ and the Father?</p> <p>Gospel: John 8:12-19 New Testament: Colossians 1:24-2:7 Old Testament: Isaiah 45:14-19</p>	<p>Psalm: 146</p> <p>Meditation: Ephesians Predestination can be a hard pill to swallow, especially since we are socially driven to ‘stand on our own two feet’ and ‘pull ourselves up by our bootstraps.’ We are surrounded by people extoling the fact that they fought for everything they have with no help as if that was a badge of honor. Predestination is a comfort to some and a nightmare for others for one simple reason. It all comes down to if you trust God to be in control of everything, including your life. So, do you trust God?</p> <p>Gospel: John 1:29-34 New Testament: Ephesians 1:3-14 Old Testament: Genesis 1:1-2:3</p>