

## July 29, 2018

### ***Unsettled: God***

#### **First Reading ~ *Isaiah 55:6-8***

Seek me, YHWH, while I may still be found,  
call upon me while I am near!  
Let the corrupt abandon their ways  
and the evil their thoughts.  
Let them return to YHWH  
and I will have mercy upon them;  
return to God, for I will freely pardon.  
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says YHWH.

#### **Second Reading ~ *from Barbara Brown Taylor in “Leaving Church: A Memoir of Faith”***

I know that the Bible is a special kind of book, but I find it as seductive as any other. If I am not careful, I can begin to mistake the words on the page for the realities they describe. I can begin to love the dried ink marks on the page more than I love the encounters that gave rise to them. If I am not careful, I can decide that I am really much happier reading my Bible than I am entering into what God is doing in my own time and place, since shutting the book to go outside will involve the very great risk of taking part in the stories that are still taking shape. Neither I nor anyone else knows how these stories will turn out, since at this point they involve more blood than ink. The whole purpose of the Bible, it seems to me, is to convince people to set the written word down in order to become living words in the world for God's sake. For me, this willing conversion of ink back to blood is the full substance of faith and resurrection.