

Adult Forum - Advent Week I Sunday, November 28, 2020

Theme, Prophets

Give yourself time in the week to read the scripture passage, read and think about the questions, and listen to the music. This will make our conversation easier on Zoom. See you Sunday!

Reading: Isaiah 11:1-9

1 A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. 2 The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. 3 His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; 4 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. 5 Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. 6 The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. 7 The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. 9 They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Discussion Questions for Sunday, Nov 28

1. How do you understand Advent? Its purpose and meaning?
2. Make a quick “to do” list for Advent. Jot down the various tasks you need and want to get done, no matter what they are.
3. What do you hope Christmas will be like? What kind of relationships do you want to be a part of? Even more, what kind of world do you want to live in this Christmas and beyond?
4. Share the words or images in the Isaiah reading that describe Jesus for you?
5. Before this reading God declares punishment on the people: “the tallest trees will be cut down and the lofty will be brought low.” it is from the cut down tree that the root of Jesse sprouts. When your life feels cut down, what helps you to sprout a new branch and start again?

6. Has there been a time in your life when hope seemed lost? What help you through? What supported you? How can we help others when they feel lost?

Music for reflection, "Take Me to the Ally," by Gregory Porter

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qj5z4SbrH20>