

27 November 2022

Bible Reading(s) for the week

Feel free to focus on as much or as little makes sense for your practice and discussion.

Isaiah 40

3-5:

A voice of one calling:

“In the wilderness prepare
the way for the Lord;
make straight in the desert
a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be raised up,
every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become level,
the rugged places a plain.

And the glory of the Lord will be revealed,
and all people will see it together.

For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

21-26:

Do you not know?

Have you not heard?

Has it not been told you from the beginning?

Have you not understood since the earth was founded?

He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth,
and its people are like grasshoppers.

He stretches out the heavens like a canopy,
and spreads them out like a tent to live in.

He brings princes to naught
and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing.

No sooner are they planted,
no sooner are they sown,
no sooner do they take root in the ground,
than he blows on them and they wither,
and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff.

“To whom will you compare me?

Or who is my equal?” says the Holy One.

Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens:

Who created all these?

He who brings out the starry host one by one
and calls forth each of them by name.

Because of his great power and mighty strength,
not one of them is missing.

Prayer for Enlightenment (Based on Ephesians 1:17-23)

God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may you give us the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that we may know you better. We pray that the eyes of our hearts may be enlightened in order that we may know the hope to which you have called us, the riches of your glorious inheritance, and your great power for us who believe. Lord, you rule far above all authority, power and dominion, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. We pray that you continue to lead us as your church as we study your word, and grow in community with you and one another. Amen.

Lectio Divina (steps to be practiced by Small Group each week)

[History and background of the Lectio Divina](#)

Lectio Reading (Small Group reads the Scripture together)

Meditatio Meditation (Individual time to meditate on the word, may read through again on their own)

Lectio Read through the scripture again.

Oratio Prayer (Individual prayer over the Scripture reading)

Lectio Read through the scripture again.

Contemplatio Communal Contemplation (The group shares their observations, connections, and interpretations of the text as well as their thoughts on the sermon, the reading, and their personal interpretations based on the previous steps.)

Actio The Call to Action (The group applies the scripture to themselves, the church, and the greater community– world).

1. What does this reading mean for me?
2. What does this reading mean for our Church?
3. What does this reading mean for our greater community?

Small Group Communal Prayer