

# A Window on Lent Devotional Activity *Lent 3*

Week of 7 March 2021



*"We're gonna knock, knock, knock on the window;  
someone will turn around.  
We're gonna knock, knock, knock on the window;  
we point where hope is found.  
The giving is the living sound. The losing means  
that we're not bound.  
If we get lost, we trust we will be found."  
(lyrics from our sending song,  
"We're Gonna Open the Window")*



A knock on your door (or window) alerts you that someone is trying to get your attention. God's love for us is insistent, demanding that we take heed. During Sunday's worship we were encouraged to imagine God knocking. We were asked: *Would we turn around? ... Would we pay attention?* With this week's **Devotional** we continue reflecting on the ways God seeks our attention. How will you hear God knocking this week?

## **Greet the Day**

You may wish to greet your morning with a "rainbow wave" (as described in previous weeks). Give thanks to God for the day ahead full of promise. Recall that the rainbow is a symbol of promise and of God's covenant love. If you feel inspired, create a new rainbow design on your window. *(Following the scripture reflection are multiple options for devotion and prayer.)*

## **Scripture Reflection**

*"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath... Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy... For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it..." (Exodus 20)*

The Ten Commandments, which God gave to Moses on Mount Sinai, were a covenant gift to the Israelites, intended to structure their common life together in ways that would be honoring to God and to others. It's as if God was saying, "Pay attention, for this is the way that leads to right relationship and life abundant." Honoring the Sabbath with worship is an essential aspect of a right relationship with God. Worship gives shape to faithful living.

*"The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." (John 2)*

With righteous anger, Jesus overturned the tables of the money changers in the temple. The holy place for worship had become a marketplace, where those who were coming in search of a meaningful relationship with God were impeded and exploited. Pay attention, Jesus demands. God's grace cannot be purchased like a pair of unblemished turtledoves. God's love is not to be exploited. Jesus proclaims the message of God's Kingdom, where love and justice and mercy can be disruptive, overturning the powers of injustice and oppression.

- *What does this mean for me as a follower of Christ? In what way/s am I called to sometimes be disruptive in the face of injustice and exploitation of others?*
- *Are there barriers or distractions in my life that impede my ability or desire to worship? What changes can I make to become more attuned to God through worship?*

### **Living Worship-filled Lives**

We gather as community for worship on Sundays to praise God, to hear God's word, to pray, and to be strengthened in faith. Worship gives shape to our lives. Yet, we acknowledge that worship has had its unique challenges during this pandemic, as computer screens have taken the place of in-person gatherings. We strive to stay connected, though we remain isolated. For some, particularly our youngest, the connection may feel distant. Despite our struggle, we are reminded that God's presence remains with us.

Worship is not confined to a temple, a church sanctuary, or a computer screen. Take time this week to be outside your home (or simply open your window) with the intention of becoming aware of God "knocking" – seeking your attention.

- *Knock on your window, and listen to the sound it produces. Knock on your tabletop, the wall, and other surfaces throughout your space. Be attentive to the how the sounds differ. Generally, when we knock on a door, we are seeking someone's attention. When we hear a knock and respond by opening the door, we are letting someone in. How is prayer like knocking?*
- *Pay attention to the world around you. What do you see, hear, smell? If you are in an area of nature, for instance, how many bird sounds can you identify? What is beginning to bloom? If you are in an area of more activity, what other sounds do you notice? What smells reach your nose? Where might the cars and people be headed? For what, for whom, is God prompting you to pray?*
- *As the pandemic continues, how are the restrictions getting my attention? What am I learning about what is most important to me? Am I gaining greater appreciation for things closest to me? Am I gaining greater appreciation for the things missing from my life right now? How do these things draw me into closer relationship with God?*
- *Are there creative ways I can help my family to worship God this week?*

## **Wisdom and Foolishness**

*"For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God... For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength." (1 Corinthians 1)*

Information is easy to come by in our world today. A quick Google search of a few simple keywords can yield thousands of responses. The news and social media offer sources from across the political spectrum to inform us on all manner of events. In whatever area our interests lie – whether in theology, the environment, health, rocket science, or any other – we gain knowledge and expertise by learning from the experiences passed down from others. With knowledge we gain greater understanding of ourselves and our world. Though it is wisdom that guides the right use of knowledge. As people of faith, we seek the wisdom of God as our guide, to discern what is truth and to understand how to use that knowledge for the sake of God's kingdom with love, mercy, and justice.

In Sunday's liturgy, we entertained various images of God as sources of wisdom:

*"like a mother warning her child about crossing a busy road, you keep on pointing, prodding..."*

*"like a rainbow through a window you remind us of your promise..."*

*"like a teenager patiently trying to teach his great grandparent how to navigate a phone, you do not give up on us..."*

- *What sources for spiritual wisdom do you draw from?*
- *What other images can you come up with to describe the unexpected sources of wisdom that help us understand the presence of God's love and grace?*

## **Prayer**

Loving Christ,

You knock on the window of my heart,  
hoping to come into my life.

Keep me alert to your presence,  
to the signs of warning,  
to the possibilities of love,  
opening me to your will.

I knock in search of your attentive love,  
and I know you are here always.

Amen.

*"Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened." (Matthew 7:7-8)*