

PRESBYTERY OF MIAMI VALLEY
Monthly Scripture Focus
2017-2018

MAY 2017

Easter

O Adonai "O Lord"

John 20:26-28

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them.

Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

1. In moments of doubt, where do you hear Jesus say "Peace be with you?"
2. Thomas declared "My Lord and my God" when he saw Jesus' wounded hands.
What elicits such a response from you?

JUNE 2017

Pentecost

O Sapientia "O Wisdom"

Proverbs 4:7-9

The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever else you get, get insight. Prize her highly, and she will exalt you; she will honor you if you embrace her.

She will place on your head a fair garland; she will bestow on you a beautiful crown.

1. When and how have you embraced wisdom in your life?
2. Who exemplifies wisdom in your life?

JULY 2017

Ordinary Time

I am the True Vine

John 15:1-5

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

1. We have all been "pruned" in our lives. What brought about your pruning? What kind of fruit grew from this painful time?
2. How can we abide more deeply in Jesus who is the True Vine?

AUGUST 2017

Ordinary Time

I am the Gate

John 10:7-10

So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

1. Jesus is the gate we enter to find pasture and safety. Imagine this pasture.

What does it look like? Feel like?

2. Jesus, the Gate, has given us entry into God's covenant community. How do we listen to Jesus and not to the voices of thieves and bandits?

SEPTEMBER 2017

Ordinary Time

I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life

John 14:5-7

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

1. Do you identify with Thomas when he said to Jesus, "How can we know the way?"

2. How has Jesus shown you truth? How has Jesus given you life? How has Jesus shown you the way?

OCTOBER 2017

Ordinary Time

I am the Bread of Life

John 6:32-35

Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

1. So often we hunger for a deeper relationship with God and with one another than the false bread of the world has to offer. What does the true bread from heaven taste like?

2. How can we feed on the Bread of Life so that we will never be hungry?

NOVEMBER 2017

Christ the King/Advent

O Rex Gentium "O King of the Nations"

Isaiah 60:1-3

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

1. Jesus reigns over all of creation and is King over all the peoples. In what ways has darkness covered our nations?
2. How can we live as the people of the beloved King?

DECEMBER 2017

Advent

O Emmanuel "God is with Us"

Matthew 1:21-23

She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."

1. Jesus, God-in-flesh, is with us always. In what ways have you experienced God with you?
2. How can we share the story of Emmanuel, with those who feel alone or abandoned?

JANUARY 2018

Epiphany

I Am the Light of the World

John 8:12

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

1. What hidden things are made manifest with the light of Jesus?
2. What deeds and actions accompany those who follow Jesus, the light of the world?

FEBRUARY 2018

Epiphany/Lent

O Oriens "O Dayspring"

Job 38:4, 12-13

Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding...Have you commanded the morning since your days began, and caused the dawn to know its place, so that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth, and the wicked be shaken out of it?

1. What comfort do you find in knowing that God the Creator holds the beginnings and endings of all of our days?
2. In humility we remember that God alone commands our days. What sin must we confess as we worship Jesus the Dayspring?

MARCH 2018

Lent

I am the Good Shepherd

John 10:14-16

I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

1. The good shepherd knows his sheep. How are you known by Jesus?
2. Jesus the good shepherd calls us to be one flock? How will we live that out today?

APRIL 2018

Easter

I am the Resurrection and the Life

John 11:25-27

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

1. Jesus came into the world to give us life here and now, not just beyond death. What does resurrection living look like?
2. We see death all around us. How does resurrection life counter that death?