

Liturgy Notes for the week of October 8, 2017

Liturgy: The Work of the People

Friends and strangers, passionate believers, hopeful skeptics: All are welcome as full participants or thoughtful observers.

If you are visiting, you'll find a card in the pew pocket explaining our liturgy. Fill out the back side and drop it in the basket to keep in touch.

This Week's Reading

You search the scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that testify on my behalf. Yet you refuse to come to me to have life. I do not accept glory from human beings. But I know that you do not have the love of God in you. I have come in my Father's name, and you do not accept me; if another comes in his own name, you will accept him. How can you believe when you accept glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the one who alone is God? 45 Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father; your accuser is Moses, on whom you have set your hope. If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. But if you do not believe what he wrote, how will you believe what I say?"

—John 5:39-47

NOTES

See You Throughout the Week

- Lunch Today: El Chilito, 6425 Burnet
- October 15–Kickball Picnic, after liturgy
- October 28–SheLeads Summit: A one-day conference about how women and men can lead the Church together.

Community Group Discussion Guide

Community Groups are “Families on Mission.”

Learn more at AustinMustardSeed.org/CommunityGroups.

Use this guide to facilitate discussion in your group and in personal reflection.

Check-in

Always begin by checking in. This is a time for everyone in the group to speak briefly. You may choose to always use the basic check-in question “what was one high point and one low point from your past week?” or come up with an “icebreaker” of your own.

Sermon Synopsis // What is the Bible?

The Bible is a sacred and historical set of texts at the heart of the Christian faith. Yet it is sometimes held in too high regard as being the only reliable source of truth. What authority should the Bible have in our time, our lives and in our church? How should we approach it as a sacred text while not placing it on an equal plane with God?

Discussion Questions

1. If you were to describe your general relationship with the Bible over the last few years, what word(s) would you use? (Choose one below or use your own.)

interesting	bored	confused
curious	cautious	oblivious
encouraging	dutiful	thankful

Have any of these words been more true for you in other seasons of life?
2. John defined the Bible as “a historical collection of documents written from a human perspective about a divine story.” How did you find clarity, confusion or conflict with this way of seeing the Bible?
3. Sometimes we have tension when we read the Bible because we are reading an ancient perspective that seems archaic. But sometimes it's because we've bought into a different story that's being told around us. How can we recognize the difference? What does it mean to embrace the narrative of the Bible as our primary understanding of reality and order our lives around that?
4. Which of the following has been most helpful for you in learning and understanding the overall narrative of the Bible?
 - hearing sermons or teachings from others
 - reading and discussing passages from the Bible with others
 - spending time in devotional study and reflection on my own

What might it look like for you to try one of the other ways to enrich your understanding?
Share a way of learning the Bible that has been helpful for you so that it might be helpful for others.