



Liturgy Notes for the week of December 3, 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 Readings

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,'"

- Mark 1:1-3

NOTES

See You Throughout the Week

- Lunch Today: Ice Skating at Whole Foods
- 12/18: Advent Lament Night

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. Groups can choose between *Lectio Divina* and Discussion Questions.

Check-in

Begin by checking in. Consider a basic icebreaker question like "what was one high point and one low point from your past week?" or come up with your own.

Lectio Divina

Using the passage from Sunday's Sermon to practice listening to scripture.

LISTEN

- Begin with a few moments of quiet or a prayer.
- Facilitator: "During the first reading listen for specific words or phrases that grab your attention."
- Have one person read the passage aloud.

MEDITATE

- Facilitator: "During the second reading meditate on the text, asking God what it means."
- Have one person read the passage aloud.

SHARE

- Facilitator: "After the third reading, share out loud the word or phrase that came to you."
- Have one person read the passage aloud.
- Take this moment to share your word or phrase.
- If you have time to go through the discussion questions, do so now.

SAVOR

- Facilitator: "During the fourth reading savor Let go of words, and ask God to reveal how the text might affect your life this week."
- Have one person read the passage aloud.

Discussion Questions

1. Would you say hope is an emotion, an attitude, or a choice? Why?
2. What makes you feel hopeless?
3. What gives you hope?
4. Read Romans 5:3-5 together:
That's not all. We also celebrate in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces patience, patience produces a well-formed character, and a character like that produces hope. Hope, in its turn, does not make us ashamed, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the holy spirit who has been given to us.
What does this passage teach us about hope?
5. What is a way you could be a monument of this Jesus kind of hope during this season of Advent? (Be specific enough to name a time, place, activity and/or a person.)