



Liturgy Notes for the week of January 28, 2018

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: Acts 17:16-34

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.'

Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

When they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some scoffed; but others said, "We will hear you again about this." At that point Paul left them. But some of them joined him and became believers, including Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

See You Throughout the Week

- Lunch today: Pinthouse Pizza
- Super Bowl of Chili-February 4



Practicing the Way of Jesus for North/Central Austin
AustinMustardSeed.org

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

We develop connections that teach us to how to love those who are not a part of a community of Jesus.

God's work of renewal isn't limited to what happens in a church community, but is intended for all humanity and all of creation. We pay attention to how God is at work in neighborhoods and nations so that we can acknowledge and join in that restorative work through justice, evangelism, and care.

Discussion Questions

1. Read Acts 17:16-34 together. (The text on the other side of this is only part of it!) Paul is distressed to see all the idols in the city. Austin isn't full of statue type idols, but what idols might we name that people have in Austin?
2. In his speech, Paul explains how their human origins are found in God, because it was a primary religious/philosophical question of the day. What are the core 'life' questions that people are trying to answer today through faith/philosophy? How do you understand following Jesus as an answer to those questions?
3. Think of 2-3 people you know who aren't part of a church community that you would love to see as part of aMS. What kind of conversations would you need to have for them to consider coming? How could you begin those conversations?
4. One of the best ways to make someone feel willing to connect to a church community is knowing more people who are already part of it. What are some ways your community group could build mutual friendships with people who are not part of a church? What are ways your group could invite people to "experience God's work of renewal" beyond an invite to liturgy?

Our Shared Blessing

Close your time together by reading together this blessing:

Austin Mustard Seed, may we be distressed by the idols that move ourselves and others away from God's work of renewal.

May we form communities that cause others to consider the invitation to Jesus' way of living.

May we love well those who are not part of a community of Jesus.

