

Genesis Devotions Introduction

We keep returning to the scripture because we believe God continues to speak to us through them. In reading with reverent attention, reflecting upon various passages with our minds and imaginations, Christians believe that we make room for the living God to come and address us anew. This is what our ancestors in the faith have taught us.

This time of Covid-19 may, for some, be an opportune moment to reengage the scriptures, or engage them for the first time. I find that the book of Genesis is always a good place to start or return. The stories of Genesis are engaging; there is intrigue, shady and noble characters, and often messy relational dynamics. Through it all, the one constant is the unwavering faithfulness of God; therefore, it is a book of hope!

Devotions will be made available weekly; and there are two parts:

- **Sunday's** devotions are longer and are intended to be engaged more leisurely perhaps with someone else, or with a journal.
- **Monday through Friday** devotions are shorter and are intended to be engaged amid all the demands of daily life. These will also be posted daily on our First Lutheran Waltham Facebook page.

Feel free to pick and choose, engaging as you wish.

Acknowledgments:

My own reading of Genesis has been deeply shaped by Genesis, by Walter Brueggemann, from the series, Interpretation, A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching, John Knox Press, 1982.

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Prayers and hymn texts: Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW), Augsburg Fortress Publishers, 2006. (Note, only hymns with text is in the public domain are included.)

I pray that as you engage the scriptures with mind, heart, and imagination you will be drawn deeper in your relationship with God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), in your relationship with others and the world God has created, and in your relationship with your own complicated and blessed inner self. Going deeper is the point!

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