



WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE GATHER ON THE DAKOTA HOMELAND

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Ingrid C. A. Rasmussen and Doug Mork, Pastors; David Rojas Martinez, Deacon

REFLECTIONS ON FIRE BY NIGHT: CHAPTERS 3-6

Author Melissa Florer-Bixler, a friend with whom I have collaborated, is courageous in choosing the texts out of which she wrestles meaning. These are hard texts! These are texts we read over or skip altogether. But mostly, I think Melissa is curious.

Early in her book she describes the Rabbinic way of interpreting texts by turning and turning them over to see all the possible meanings. This leads Melissa to read the texts appreciatively. She doesn't read them to simply solve puzzles or to explain away questionable behavior—even God's. I think it's clear that she reads the Bible as a Christian and pastor who loves the bible. Melissa's purpose in writing, it seems to me, is to know God more deeply, know herself more deeply, and in doing so learn how to live faithfully as people who are messed up in a world that can be very messed up. And she invites us on the journey with her—knowing God and knowing ourselves so that we can live lives of love, mercy, justice, and witness.



If you're not familiar with Amalek (Ch. 3), that's okay. The Amalekites were a tribal group descended from Esau—Jacob's twin, which is where the dysfunction begins. Weirdness in the family begins with a word about the older serving the younger, deception to secure a blessing by the mother (Rebekah) for her favorite, and alienation.

The saga continues when, during the Exodus from Egypt, the Israelites are terrorized by the Amalekites. That earns them a curse and the judgment as a people to be destroyed and forgotten. There is so much violence in the story.

But Melissa's taking time to turn the story over and over finds a series of ironies that could have led to different outcomes. They could have remembered their own family history with Isaac's half-brother Ishmael receiving a blessing. There's a lifetime of undoing the harm in Jacob and Esau's story, so that reconciliation looks like reparations and Jacob's exclamation, "to see your face is like seeing the face of God! (Genesis 33: 10)." And then there's the curse of the Amalekites' memory

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SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

READINGS

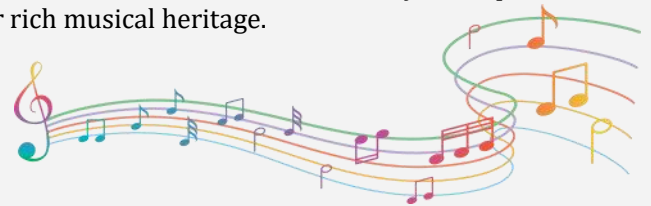
Isaiah 55:10-13; Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13;
Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

ADULT FORUM

Holy Trinity Adult Forums feature in-person presentations beginning at 11:15 a.m. on Sunday. The presentations are also available via [Zoom](#) for those unable to attend in person. ID 858 5687 1594; Password 317879.

July 16 "The Legacy of Lutheran Hymnody"
Cantor Phil Radtke

Join cantor Phil Radtke in the library for a presentation on our rich musical heritage.



July 23 No Adult Forum—Music in the Garden!

POP-UP HANDBELL CHOIR

You're invited to the summer 2023 pop-up bell choir at Holy Trinity! Whether you've been ringing bells your whole life, or have never picked one up, you're welcome to join in the fun.

Who? Anyone interested in handbells! Ability to read half and quarter notes recommended.

What? One handbell rehearsal and performance at Holy Trinity Sunday worship.

When? Rehearsal **Wednesday, July 19, from 6-7:30 p.m.**; Ring in worship **Sunday, July 23**; meet at 9:00 a.m., service at 10:00 a.m.

RSVP to Logan Olson (lolson@htlcmpls.org) if you'd like to participate.

~ Concerning People ~

We pray today for all those in need of God's tender care, especially those who face illness, sorrow, or hard times. We pray for **Pam Wetterlund**, recovering from a car accident; **Deb Anderson**, recovering from surgery; **Mary Paavola**, recovering from a fall; **Ann Schrooten**, recovering from surgery; **Dorothy Kelly**; **Cori Gershon**; **Mark Symchych**.

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being blotted out forever. And yet every year their story is repeated aloud in the synagogue the week before the feast of Purim, undoing the forgetting. If this sounds like the twists and turns of a suspense novel, you're right. God is free—and that might yield unexpected results. Our hearts may focus on vengeance, but God is free to turn them to reconciliation and as Melissa observes, "God is in the business of turning all things toward good. (73)"

Melissa then turns to the story of Jacob (Ch. 4) who is "torn between wanting a God who is free and one who will stay in a holy place." You may recall Jacob's camping story and how in a night vision he sees the ladder between heaven and earth with angels descending and ascending. Rightfully he acknowledges that God was indeed in that place. Jacob wants to commemorate this experience and he sets up a stone altar so that God would reside there. Yet, he wants God to go with him as he continues to his destination.

This can be our dilemma too. We want to mark our experiences or simply have a place where God is to reside. Yet, we inherently know that we want God to journey with us. We can try to control God with misguided, even harmful ideas of what might please God, like the Doctrine of Discovery. This doctrine gave colonizers a "divine" mandate to take and colonize, and not just displace but decimate Indigenous populations in North America. This is a wake-up call for every generation to recognize that God is everywhere present, and therefore each place is holy, each person marked by the Divine image, and that we are called to interrogate the sacred places and "divine" claims that potentially warp our faith into something destructive. The good news is that "God finds us where we are, evading our grasp, and yet always with us, to the very end. (100)"

Finally, Melissa comes to the story of Job (Ch. 6) in a chapter titled, "God of Darkness." Job's story indeed has a good deal of hard stuff. In a stroke of brilliance, she reads the book of Job with Hannah, a child from the congregation, who will develop a sermon to preach in worship. After the first few chapters she said to Melissa, "I don't think this story is appropriate for children." As her sermon developed, Hannah determined that "God doesn't do well at being God in this story. God acts like a person...It's Job who never gives up, stays faithful...we want a God like Job."

But we know it's complicated. We know that God does not act like a predictable formula. Old Testament scholar Ellen Davis asks the question, "Can you love what you cannot control?" Job's own darkness is transformed as he encounters this uncontrollable God. Sometimes for us it's during the time of dwelling in the darkness, feeling very vulnerable, that God meets us in surprising, not-as-we-expected, not-who-we-expected ways, that changes everything.

~ Reflection by Matt Floding

Next week, chapters 7-9, reflection by Deacon David!

COTTAGE MEETINGS

COTTAGE MEETINGS— FINAL WEEKS

We are in the final weeks for Cottage Meetings. If you have not had a chance to attend one yet and would like to, please RSVP to the church office (612-729-8358 / office@htlcmpls.org) to one of the following meetings happening in July. There are only a handful of spots left!

July 20, 5:00-6:00 p.m. — Best Bites and Beverage, Happy Hour, by Matt & Marcia Floding (Becketwood—Kensington Square, 4300 W River Pkwy) **A few spots left!**

July 25, 7:00 p.m. —Dessert Gathering, Hosted by Libby & Keith Olstad (120 Valleyview Place) **A couple of spots left, this is the last Cottage meeting.**



Sprinkles moved the grill-out indoors but didn't damper our spirits.
~ Karen Kunze

SOLAR PANEL SYSTEM UPDATE FROM KATHY HOLLANDER

We're delighted that the solar system we had installed in December 2021 is performing well this summer. Days of drought have meant cloudless skies, which translated to increased solar production, despite some smoke filled days. This year's April, May, and June production all surpassed last year's production for those months. Solar production during the upcoming July, August, and September billing cycles should also be very good, so we are on track to again generate about 40% of our electrical use from the sun.

Be sure to check out our new sign advertising our solar system on the east church wall! We thank Amy Hanson for the colorful design. Getting a design approved and selecting a sign installer that reused an existing church sign has taken some amount of time, but it's now completed and installed.



HAPPENING THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, JULY 16—"KIDSLIT IS LIT" CHILDREN'S BOOK FESTIVAL AT MOON PALACE, 10:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M.

Join Moon Palace for a FREE family friendly event in the green space between Moon Palace Books and The Hub in South Minneapolis. They will be hosting dozens of local children's book authors and artists/makers. Yummy food and treats, including MN Nice Cream, will also be there. And of course, the beloved bouncy castle! Free event but [tickets](#) are required.

THURSDAY, JULY 20—ENCORE! AT TURTLE BREAD

The Encore! group (congregants 50+) is bringing Turtle Bread breakfasts back! Encore! meets monthly at 8:00 a.m. at Turtle Bread (4205 E. 34th St.). There is no agenda. Breakfast goes simply get to know one another. No sign up necessary.

THURSDAYS, JULY 20, 27, AND AUGUST 3—LONGFELLOW SUMMER SING

This first annual Summer Sing will take place on Thursdays from 6:00 to 7:30 p. m. in the Sanctuary at Holy Trinity and will provide a space for novice to professional, young to old, shy, and confident to join together. We will sing sacred and secular pieces in different styles by composers local and abroad that promote community and music making. Local choir director, G. Phillip Shoultz, III will be the guest clinician. Phillip is the Associate Artistic Director of VocalEssence as well as Cantor at Westwood Lutheran Church. Questions and sign-up can be directed to Phil Radtke (pradtke@htlcmpls.org).

SATURDAY, JULY 22, 10 A.M.—12 P.M.—METAMORPHOSIS: ANGELA TWO STARS

Metamorphosis: "a change of the form or nature of a thing or person into a completely different one, by natural or supernatural means." Metamorphosis is a participatory installation by artist, Angela Two Stars and in collaboration with Pangea World Theater, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, and Longfellow Rising. Metamorphosis acts as phase II of The Transition Stage (2021), a temporary community cocoon installation, which served as a vessel for community laments, hopes, dreams, and mottos of strength as the Longfellow neighborhood and the city of Minneapolis moved towards growth, redevelopment, and healing after the 2020 murder of George Floyd and subsequent uprisings that caused destruction and devastation to the Longfellow neighborhood.

Metamorphosis is a 2-sided mural. One side features the compilation of written community contributions, a reminder of the losses experienced after the uprisings of 2020 but also a reminder of the resilience and hope of the Longfellow neighborhood and how together, we can rebuild.



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The other side of the artwork, a butterfly scene, the representation of the transformation, rebuilding, and strength of the community. Interactive chrysalis sculptural art forms will invite audience participation to enter and emerge from the discarded chrysalis "transformed," a metaphor of the rebuilt neighborhood. Community engagement activities held throughout the festival will invite the audience to create their own butterfly designs to add to the artwork. Location: Former MIGIZI site, 3017 27th Ave. S.

SATURDAY, JULY 22, 5 P.M.—COCKTAILS IN DEB'S GARDEN

Member Deb Sodt loves two things: gardening and craft cocktails. Join her in her backyard for garden cocktails (both alcohol and nonalcoholic drinks will be served) and conversation. Sign up in the Community Room soon, as each gathering is limited to eight participants!

SAVE THE DATE

SUNDAY, JULY 23—MUSIC IN THE GARDEN

We invite all to join us for music and food in the garden immediately following the 10:00 a.m. service. The day's music will be provided by Mariachi Jalisco. \$5 suggested donation for lunch; however, don't let the money keep you away from the fun. All are welcome! If you'd like to volunteer to help set up or serve, contact Jeff Olsen Biebighauser (jbiebigh@gmail.com).



WEDNESDAY, JULY 26—SUMMER FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Let's take advantage of the lingering sunny days and come together from 5:30-6:30 p.m. for a night of food, fun, and friendly connections. Today we will have water games and remember our baptism. Wear clothes that can get wet. We'll provide everything, just bring your family! Hosted by the Children and Family Team.



THE CHURCH LIBRARY IS OPEN DURING THE WEEK

The Library and Children's Library in the room next to the Library (a work in progress) are open during the week for anyone to use during the summer. Stop by anytime during office hours: 8:30-4:00 p.m. Monday—Thursday, 8:30-3:00 p.m. Friday. You can check out books to take home or stay, relax, and read. Consider taking advantage of this wonderful resource.

OUR AMAZING UNIVERSE — GOD'S CREATION

The astronomy exhibit on display in the Community Room and Library is the product of Bob Ochtrup, a resident of Becketwood Senior Cooperative. It combines his love of astronomy and photography. The display is the result of Bob's research of NASA computer links and taking screen shots of celestial images.

The exhibit provides diverse images across the spectrum of stellar objects from planets and our moon, to galaxies, star clusters, nebula, nova, supernova, and even a visiting comet. Look, enjoy, and ponder the wonders and beauty of the universe. See a few preview photos on page four.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FOR SUNDAY, JULY 16, 2023

Preacher	David Rojas Martinez
Presiding Minister	Doug Mork
Crucifer	
Assisting Minister	Sally Kohlstedt
Communion	Roberta Shaw, Matt Floding, Allison Johnson Heist
Ushers	Helen and Bob Norheim, Kathy Hollander, Rod Johnson
Altar Guild	Roberta Shaw, Doris Gbala
Coffee Servers	Kathy Hollander, Rod Johnson
Counters	Pam Blomgren
Video Operator	Bob Hulteen
Closer	Bob Hulteen



A preview of the astronomy exhibit on display in the Community Room and Library courtesy of Bob Ochtrup

PARISH EVENTS JULY 16-JULY 22, 2023

Sunday, July 16	10:00 AM 11:15 AM 2:00 PM	Worship Service of Holy Communion Adult Forum Swahili Service
Tuesday, July 18	11:00 AM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM	Worship Readings Discussion Executive Council Meets Church Council Meets
Wednesday, July 19	6:00 PM	Summer Pop-Up Handbell Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, July 20	8:00 AM 6:00 PM	Encore! at Turtle Bread Longfellow Summer Sing
Saturday, July 22	10:00 AM 5:00 PM	Metamorphosis: Angela Two Stars Cocktails in Deb Sodt's Garden

LIVESTREAM LINKS FOR WORSHIP SERVICES

A [live-stream](#) of the 10:00 a.m. Sunday service is available online at 9:55 a.m. You can access recordings of previous worship services [here](#).

