



WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE GATHER ON THE DAKOTA HOMELAND

2730 E. 31st Street Minneapolis, MN 55406 • 612-729-8358 • office@htlcmpls.org • www.htlcmpls.org
Ingrid C. A. Rasmussen and Doug Mork, Pastors; David Rojas Martinez, Deacon

REFLECTIONS ON *FIRE BY NIGHT*: CHAPTERS 7-9

I commend to you all this summer's community book *Fire by Night: Finding God in the Pages of the Old Testament* written by Melissa Florer-Bixler. As I made my way through its pages, the author's words reminded me of my love for Scripture. This is by no means a statement I make lightly! In my day-to-day as your deacon, I can (and do) become somewhat desensitized to the beauty of our Holy Book because I spend so much time wrestling with it, reading others' commentaries on it, and creating meaning from it to share with those around me. It helps to simply be "preached to" in a life-giving way, and this book has done just that. Anyway, I digress. Here are my thoughts on chapters 7-9 for this week:

Florer-Bixler titles her seventh chapter of this book *God of Wonder* and goes on to explore delight and Deuteronomy. That's right! The book of the Bible that so often gets misused by extremists and/or overlooked by many of us who would rather look the other way inspires delight. The author takes a fresh look at the concept of 'first fruits' which comes up in sacred writ, and reminds us that the Divine chooses overabundance and expansiveness, inviting all of humanity to remember that, "You do not have to be braver or smarter or kinder or more faithful ... You are God's first fruit ... each of us beloved by God" (pg. 125). As I reflected on this particular chapter, I wondered how I might live my life in a way that is open to the immensity of God's delight in what has been, already is, and all that will be.



Chapter eight in Florer-Bixler's book is titled *God of Birds* and it goes on to explore the Psalms, human error, and the many things we can learn if we pay attention to that which is around us, especially creatures like birds. The Psalms do have a special place in my heart since they are what my beloved maternal grandmother taught me to pray as a child. This chapter gave me even more appreciation for one Psalm in particular - number 84. It was especially meaningful to read, "When Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount, I imagine him pausing after telling the crowd to look at the

(continued on next page)



EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

READINGS

Isaiah 44:6-8; Psalm 86:11-17;
Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

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 23 No Adult Forum—Music in the Garden!

July 30 "Removing Racial Covenants"
Rachel Broeke, Executive Director at LLC

Join Rachel Broeke, the Executive Director of the Longfellow Community Council, for a presentation on Minneapolis' racial covenants and how to research and remove them.

WORSHIP ASSISTANT MINISTRY CALENDAR NOW OPEN

The Worship Assistant Ministry calendar for August is now *live*. This schedule reflects the final weeks before we move back to the two-service schedule. Volunteers can log into the Rotunda app for the next few weeks and block off any worship dates/times that you cannot serve or that you want to serve. Thanks for serving!

UPDATE ON CALL PROCESS FOR DEACON DAVID

On May 7, the congregation voted to organize a call committee to discern a call for an Associate Pastor at Holy Trinity. We resoundingly voted "yes" to move this process forward. A committee of dedicated members planned and conducted an interview in June and provided a recommendation to the council that we call Deacon David. The church council plans to call a congregational meeting in September to call Deacon David, which is the last step in this process. If the congregation votes to extend a call to David, an ordination service would follow in the fall.

~ 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; **Dorothy Kelly**; **Cori Gershon**; **Mark Symchych**.

(continued from previous page)

birds of the air. He is distracted for a moment, his mind going back to the words of the Psalms he heard as a child ..." (pg. 138). This statement invited me to imagine Jesus in a way that resonated with me. It allowed me to pause what I was doing and simply take in that which was around me, and I realized that I have not been as attentive as I would like.

The ninth chapter in Florer-Bixler's book is titled *God of the Vulnerable* and, within it, the author goes on to explore a well-known story within 2 Kings as well as invite us to wonder about what differently abled folks teach us. The story surrounding Naaman is one that has often impressed me since I was a young boy reading my *Action Story Bible*. Miracles seem so other-worldly impossible to me! In this chapter, the author reminds us (as Tertullian teaches) that, "I am becoming a fool in the world through believing the foolish things of God ... The Son of God died ... it is absurd ... He rose again: it is certain because it is impossible" (pg. 147). There is no way to flesh out (in such a small reflection) how revelatory it was to ponder the impossibility of beauty in our shared human existence that is so often marked with pain. And yet, my heart was moved by the examples the author chose to lift for the reader.

I look forward to finishing this book with you all and to reading next week's reflection!

~ Reflection by Deacon David

Next week, chapters 10-11, reflection by Joyce Besser

LIBRARY NEWS

We have acquired a number of **new** adult and youth titles in the last couple of months. You will find them on the library cart in the community room for the next 2-3 weeks. Some have been donated by members. Thank you! To see the new titles, you can access our catalog at <https://holytrinitylutheran.library.site/> Click on "New in Library" at the top of the page. **Children's and youth books** have been moved out of the library and into half of the adjoining room. This will give kids easier access to books and a space of their own. Furnishings and book re-organization are works in progress. We plan to beef up the collection of books for older children. Thank you to Chuck Jordan who built a rolling cart with book bins! Both the adult and youth libraries are now **open on Sunday morning AND on weekdays!**

Looking ahead: The American Library Association celebrates **Banned Books** Week October 1-7. We will display our library's banned books in the community room at that time. If you know of titles that should be included in the display, we will include those if we have them. The adult education committee is planning an adult forum about book banning around that time. That's all for now. Thanks to all who use, and care about, our library.



~Your librarians, Roberta Shaw and Annie Hines.

COTTAGE MEETINGS

COTTAGE MEETINGS— FINAL WEEK

We are in the final week for Cottage Meetings. The last one is Tuesday, hosted by Libby and Keith Olstad and is full. We truly appreciate those who have hosted and all who have participated. In the coming weeks, we'll share a link for folks to offer feedback to help up improve the process for future Cottage Meetings.

Please enjoy a few photos from one of last week's gatherings!



ANTI-BLACKNESS ARTICLE FOR JULY FROM MEMBER, DONNA GOODLAXSON

We are called to the goal of challenging "anti-Blackness" and remediating its effects. In a search for better understanding, I experimented with turning the words around to find a synonym. The opposite of "anti" is "pro". The opposite of "Black" is "white". I arrived at pro-white— more commonly known as white supremacy. So, how do we remediate the effects of white supremacy? How do white people step outside of its characteristic defensiveness, fear and 'One Right Way' attitude?

One way is by building awareness and telling stories...

A few months ago, I had lunch with a good friend. We had a lot to talk about and lingered at our table engaged in catching up on family and all things that good friends talk about. When we stood up to leave, I was startled by yelling from across the restaurant, "Hey! Hey! You gotta pay!" It was the wait staff running toward our table. My mind spun searching for a response, but this registered as a new experience. I was incredulous... One look at my friend's face told me this was not new for her. She is Black.

The Racial Justice group welcomes your response to the series on Anti-Blackness. [Click here](#) to share an experience, comment or other feedback.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

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 (jbiebig@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.



THURSDAYS, JULY 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. Questions sign-up can be directed to Phil Radtke (pradtke@htlcmpls.org).

SAVE THE DATE

SUMMER POP-UP CHOIR SUNDAY, JULY 30

This is your second opportunity to sing as a choir in worship this summer. Everyone is welcome, from those who can't commit to weekly rehearsals during the school year but have always wanted to sing, to those who have sung in choirs for years. (Family and friends who are visiting are also welcome!) Rehearse at 9:00 a.m. in the sanctuary for the 10:00 a.m. worship service. No preparation needed.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AUGUST 14-17, 2023, 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Please know that Cantor Phil, the pastors, and other staff members are excited for the possibilities of what Vacation Bible School (VBS) will look like in August. We are imagining four days of learning about faith-filled responses to injustices in our neighborhood and greater society. There will be music, food, games, stories, and lots more every day of VBS! Please call the office to register (612-729-8358). We hope you will consider joining us! Questions can be sent to Deacon David (drojasmartinez@htlcmpls.org).

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 5 P.M.—ALL CONGREGATION PICNIC

As summer wanes, Holy Trinity families will gather for fun, food, and frolic at Hidden Falls Park. Plan to join us in the afternoon and bring a dish to share for potluck.

AROUND THE COMMUNITY

REMEMBER AND REFLECT: STREET ART BOARDS FROM THE GEORGE FLOYD UPRISING

Becketwood Cooperative will host a free outdoor exhibit of street art boards that were created during the uprising following the killing of George Floyd. Titled *Remember and Reflect: Plywood Art From the George Floyd Uprising*, the exhibit will take place on Saturday, August 5, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the grounds of Becketwood, 4300 West River Parkway, Minneapolis.

The boards are provided by *Save the Boards Minneapolis* whose founder, Kenda Zellner-Smith, will give a presentation at 12:30. *Save the Boards'* vision is to uplift local artists and serve as a safe space for community education, reflection, and storytelling, allowing viewers to connect with art through their own experiences, voices, and personal journeys. The band Brass Solidarity, which was founded in 2021 in response to the movement for Black lives, will also perform. This event is an initiative of Becketwood, a welcoming 55+ cooperative community located on 12 acres across from the Mississippi River.



THE PATH TO PEACE: MUSIC AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE

The Path to Peace: Music Against Gun Violence is a choral program and community gathering initiative presented in partnership with Protect Minnesota, the only independent, state-based organization devoted to gun violence prevention in Minnesota. The spiritual successor to last year's *REQUIEM: A Concert for Gun Reform*, this year's project features expanded community outreach program and a focus on action and education.

We invite you to lend your voice to this project, [click here](#) for details

The choral program will center of Maurice Duruflé's *Requiem* and take place at 7pm, Saturday, August 12.

Freewill donations (suggested donation \$20) accepted at the door. All proceeds will go to funding gun reform and advocacy efforts in the state of Minnesota.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FOR SUNDAY, JULY 23, 2023

Preacher	Babette Chatman
Presiding Minister	Doug Mork
Crucifer	
Assisting Minister	Rick Liedholm
Communion	Keith and Libby Olstad, David Broberg
Ushers	Ginny and Chuck Jordan, Kathy Hollander, Rod Johnson
Altar Guild	Keith and Libby Olstad
Coffee Servers	Ann White
Counters	Chuck Jordan, Wayne Vetter
Video Operator	Bob Hulteen
Closer	Rod Johnson



"Where flowers bloom, so does hope." –Lady Bird Johnson

PARISH EVENTS JULY 23-JULY 29, 2023

Sunday, July 23	10:00 AM 11:15 AM 2:00 PM	Worship Service of Holy Communion Music In The Garden Swahili Service
Tuesday, July 25	11:00 AM	Worship Readings Discussion
Wednesday, July 26	5:30 PM	Family Fun Night
Thursday, July 27	6:00 PM	Longfellow Summer Sing

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](#).

