

March 20



READ

Genesis 31:43-44, CEB

Laban responded and told Jacob, “The daughters are my daughters, the children are my children, and the flocks are my flocks. Everything you see is mine. But what can I do now about my daughters and about their sons? Come, let’s make a treaty, you and me, and let something be our witness.”

WONDER

- Jacob and his father-in-law Laban have a disagreement where neither of them are willing to back down. They each have big reasons to be upset with each other and big feelings that are very reasonable. Laban knows about Jacob’s God and offers to make a covenant, a promise, that neither of them will cross over the line and hurt the other one.
- I wonder if you’ve ever had a disagreement where you were butting heads with someone else and it felt like there would never be a resolution? Does that feel like the first picture with the goats or is there a different metaphor that describes it better?
- I wonder if you’ve ever decided that it was better to make peace than to prove that you are right in a disagreement? How did that feel?
- I wonder if you’ve ever felt like God was with you in a difficult situation? If so, did that feel more like the goats, the hand shake or the dove free from the cage?

PRAY

Dear Loving God, thank you for always walking with us through the big things and the small things, through the easy things and the tough things. Thank you for being with us during our big feelings and when our friends and family have big feelings, even when we don’t agree or understand. Help us to live by the promise to love you and love our neighbours. We love you God so much and we’re thankful that you love us. Amen.

March 21



READ

Genesis 31:46-50, CEB

...and [Jacob] said to his relatives, “Gather stones.” So they took stones, made a mound, and ate there near the mound. Laban called it Jegar-sahadutha, but Jacob called it Galeed.

Laban said, “This mound is our witness today,” and, therefore, he too named it Galeed. He also named it Mizpah, because he said, “The Lord will observe both of us when we are separated from each other. If you treat my daughters badly and if you marry other women, though we aren’t there, know that God observed our witness.”

WONDER

- Why do you suppose Jacob and Laban built a pillar of stone as part of their covenant?
- What are covenants we make in our lives today? How do we mark them?
- In Holy Baptism, God invites us into a covenant relationship. What is God’s side of the covenant?
- What are promises we make to God?

PRAY

God, you want us to always be in right relationship with you and with one another. Help us to hold fast and be faithful to the covenants we make in our lives, especially our covenant you make with us through baptism. When we fall short, we pray for your mercy, forgiveness and grace. Amen.

March 22



READ

Psalm 144:3-4, CEB

What are human beings, Lord, that you know them at all?

What are human beings that you even consider them?

Humans are like a puff of air;
their days go by like a shadow.

WONDER

- How do we learn to embrace our mortality as a friend?
- How does being a “puff of air” provide liberation for your soul?
- How can our mortality provide new life for future generations?
- Think of a friend who knows you. How do you know they know you? How do you do know God knows you?

PRAY

Merciful God, you created us out of love. Our life has been but a puff of air, but your love has no end. May your love allow us to receive new life through our mortality. Amen.

March 23



READ

Psalm 144: 12-15, CEB

so that our sons can grow up fully, in their youth, like plants;
so that our daughters can be like pillars carved to decorate a palace;
so that our barns can be full, providing all kinds of food;
so that our flocks can be in the thousands—
even tens of thousands—in our fields;
so that our cattle can be loaded with calves;
so that there won't be any breach in the walls,
no exile, no outcries in our streets!
The people who have it like this are truly happy!
The people whose God is the Lord are truly happy!

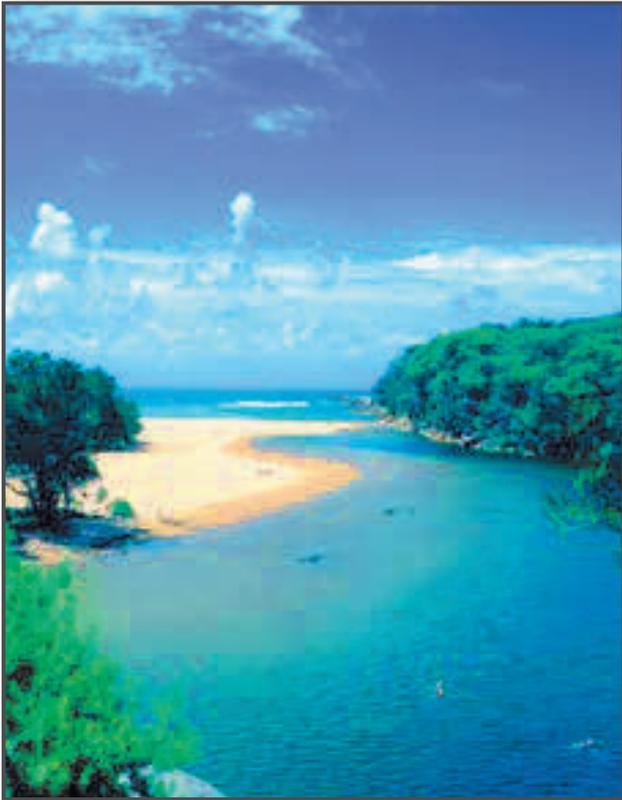
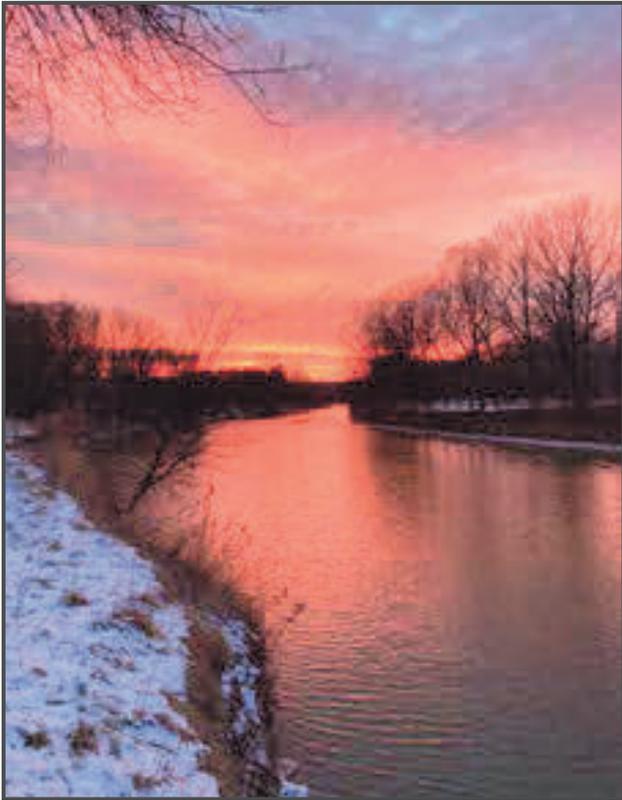
WONDER

- I wonder, do you worry about wars, crime and hunger?
- I wonder, how would our world be different if we live with God's blessing of love?
- I wonder how you can bring God's blessing to the world?

PRAY

God of all blessing, fill our hearts with your love and life so that all may live in your grace.

March 24



READ

John 4: 13-15, CEB

Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks from the water that I will give will never be thirsty again. The water that I give will become in those who drink it a spring of water that bubbles up into eternal life.”

The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I will never be thirsty and will never need to come here to draw water!”

WONDER

- How does Jesus’ water of eternal life relate to the water that we drink? The water that we enjoy and play in?
- How do we drink Jesus’ water?
- What does it feel like to be thirsty and there is a lot of water that you cannot drink?
- How does Jesus’ water bubble up in me?

PRAY

Dear Jesus,

We thank you for the water that you give us! The water we drink, the water found in nature, the water we swim in, and most importantly, for the water of eternal life. Help us to share all forms of water with those that are thirsty. AMEN.

March 25



READ

John 4: 19-21, CEB

Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks from the water that I will give will never be thirsty again. The water that I give will become in those who drink it a spring of water that bubbles up into eternal life.”

The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I will never be thirsty and will never need to come here to draw water!”

Jesus said to her, “Go, get your husband, and come back here.”

The woman replied, “I don’t have a husband.”

“You are right to say, ‘I don’t have a husband,’” Jesus answered. “You’ve had five husbands, and the man you are with now isn’t your husband. You’ve spoken the truth.”

The woman said, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you and your people say that it is necessary to worship in Jerusalem.”

Jesus said to her, “Believe me, woman, the time is coming when you and your people will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.”

WONDER

- I wonder how it feels to get a big drink of water after feeling thirsty?
- I wonder what it would feel like to find water in a very dry place?
- I wonder how Jesus’ love might feel like that?
- I wonder where you feel closest to God? Why?

PRAY

Dear God,

Your love is like a great big glass of water when we feel very thirsty! You refresh our souls. Help us to refresh others by sharing your love. We know you are with us wherever we go. We love you. Amen!

March 26



READ

Matthew 12:46-50, CEB

While Jesus was speaking to the crowds, his mother and brothers stood outside trying to speak with him. Someone said to him, “Look, your mother and brothers are outside wanting to speak with you.”

Jesus replied, “Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?” He stretched out his hand toward his disciples and said, “Look, here are my mother and my brothers. Whoever does the will of my Father who is in heaven is my brother, sister, and mother.”

WONDER

- What are your earliest memories of you and your siblings, parents, or closest family members?
- What are some of your memories that helped you know you could depend on them?
- What is your best story about someone who feels like family, even though you're not related? What does it take to build relationships like these?
- How can we work together with our family and close friends to share Christ's love and goodness? What kind of difference would that make for our neighbours?

PRAY

Gracious God, thank you for the close family relationships from our youth that teach us how to love one another, and for the way this shared love expands to others and holds potential to impact the world for the purposes of Christ. Help us to be more aware and intentional in our efforts to cultivate and make the most of these precious relationships in the image and example of Christ. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.