

Lent Meditation: Week 2

Let the Living Water Lead Us

Invocation

God of imagination, you show yourself to us in so many ways. Before we were born, we all floated in a bubble of water. When we are baptized, the water covers us and is absorbed into our skin and we are born again. Come with us today as we let this truth sink into our imaginations and give us joy in your presence.

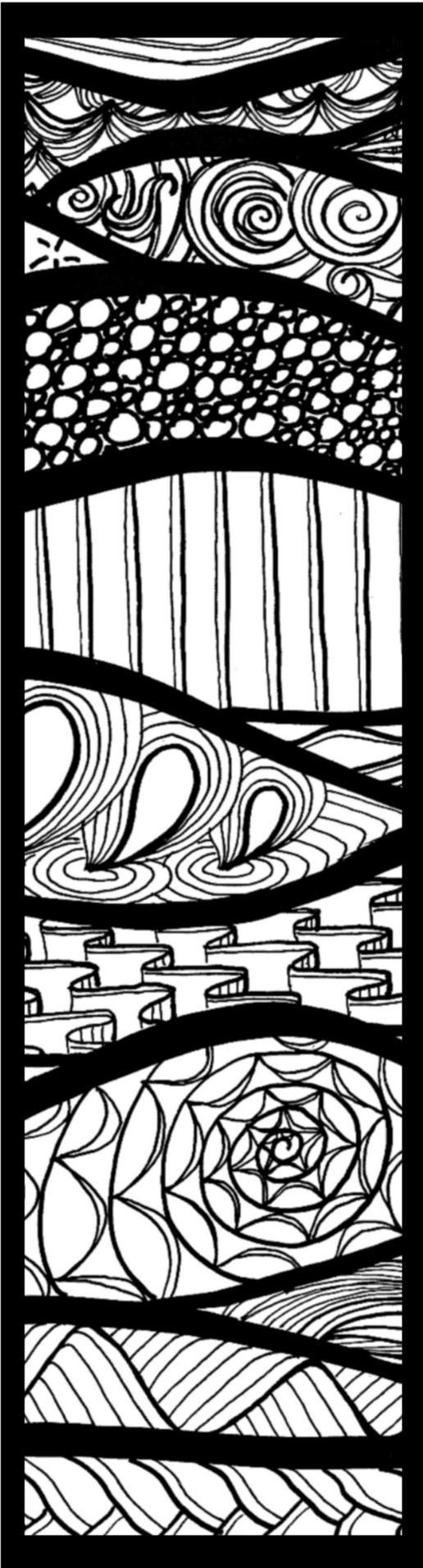
Confession

You know us Lord. We want simple facts and we want black and white truths. Forgive us for not using the imagination that you gave us. Show us how to use water to teach us that some truths are impossible to grab and clutch. Remind us that the water of our baptism ran over our heads and into every pore and then back to the source. Amen

John 3:1-5, 16 (NRSV)

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."



Prayer

Leader: Creator God, we give you thanks and praise that you have given us such a wonderful thing as water. We can feel it and hold it, but it defies being molded by us. Increase in us wonder at the marvels of creation and help us to use water frugally and with wisdom.

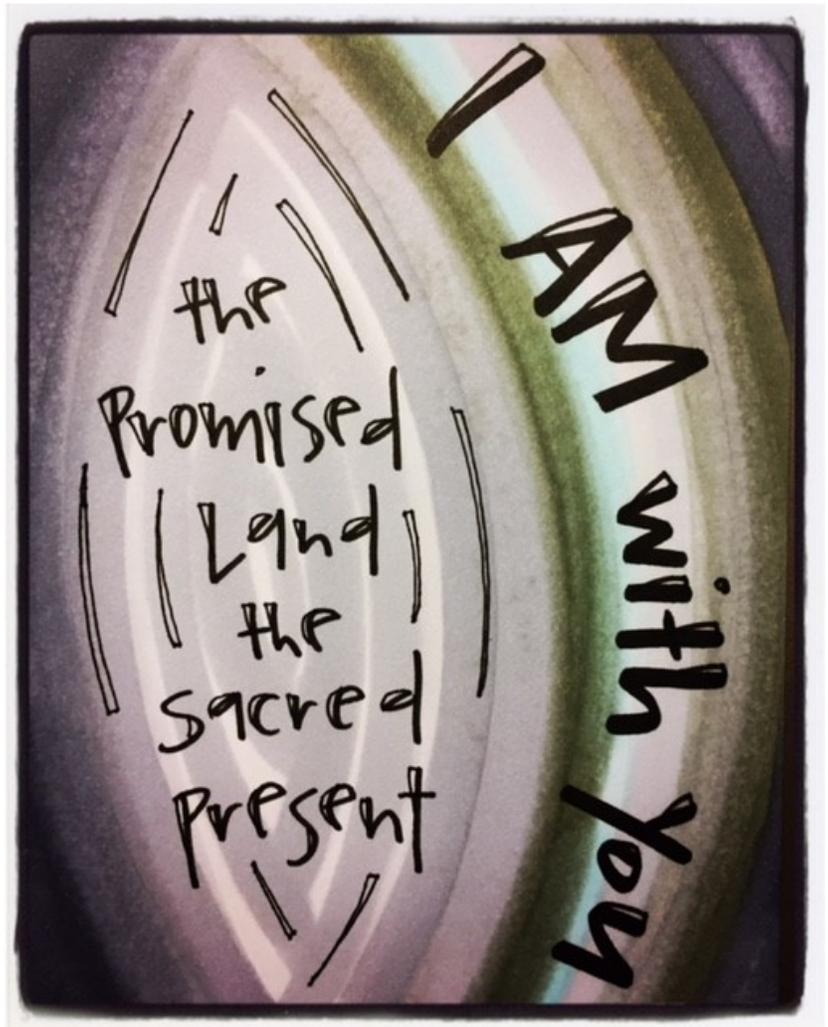
All: Let the Living Water lead us.

Leader: Jesus, we give you thanks for teaching us that some truths are not easy to explain, yet they are true. Stretch our imaginations so that we can delight in your words.

All: Let the Living Water lead us.

Leader: Spirit of God, you were there at our birth and at our baptism. You flow where you choose and although we cannot see you, we feel peace in your presence. Lead us to do the loving work that needs to be done.

All: Let the Living Water lead us. Amen



Nicodemus Visits Jesus

A time of silence

You are invited into a time of reflection and a spiritual practice called Ignatian Contemplation. It invites us to use our imaginations to put ourselves into the story. Read the lesson to yourself. Then retell the story using "I sentences". For example: "It was late – already dark -- when a distinguished man came up to me..." (Jesus' point of view) or "I was cleaning up the dinner dishes when a man asked me where Jesus was..." (a woman disciple's point of view). Add sights, smells, colors and feelings to your story. You might want to write down your story, or tell it to another person. Then add color to the mural. Today, you might like to use dark, cool colors to remind us of the night.

A blessing

May Creator God bless us with clean water.

May Jesus the Christ bless us with living water.

May the Spirit of God bless us as we follow where the water leads us. Amen

Lent 2017 Week 2

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