

Wednesday

Scripture:

- Lamentations 5.1-22
- Psalm 137
- Mark 11.12-14; 20-24

Reflection:

"How shall we sing God's song in a strange land?"

I had the chance to listen to a dozen or so 12-year-olds yesterday. The speed at which they were talking, and the form of English they used to communicate were totally foreign to me. I picked up one word in five (or so).

But things changed when we began to talk about their faith. I started to hear "God's song" in their words – and could see it in their actions.

When they asked the adults around them to share stories about "Where God fits in my life," I began to realize that "God's song" - the stories of our living faith – were becoming a bridge that allowed us to really see each other.

How do you sing God's song?

Prayer:

With my voice,
with my words,
with my movements,
with my actions,
help me to be your song
this day, and the day to come, O God!

Today I remember and pray for _____,
friends blessed by your love.

For your grace,
with your love,
and in Christ's name, I pray.

Thursday

Scripture:

- Jeremiah 25.1-14
- Psalm 66.1-12
- 2 Timothy 1.13-18

Reflection:

As a group of elders were leaving a memorial service this afternoon, I overheard one of them say to another, "You know... it would be really nice if we could have I could have a celebration of my life – just like today's – while I'm on *this* side of the ground."

I think there's something to that. How often do we give thanks – both to God and to those around us – for what their actions have meant in our lives? How often do we take the time to name the deep and loving accomplishments we see.

Wouldn't it be great if we let people know that they are a gift of God in our lives... before we can't say it face-to-face?

Prayer:

Who do I need to thank today, God?
Who do I need to let know,
what they mean to me -
what they mean to you -
what they mean to the world?
Help me to find them -
and to truly celebrate their life.
(And help me to do it *with them*, please!)

Today, I remember and pray for _____,
friends blessed by your love and compassion.

For your grace,
with your love,
and in Christ's name, I pray.

Friday

Scripture:

- Jeremiah 27.1-22
- Psalm 66.1-12
- 2 Timothy 2.1-7

Reflection:

At first glance, I'm not sure how to take any of today's readings! (Which makes me chuckle at the last line of the 2 Timothy reading, "Think over what I say, for God will give you understanding in all things.")

What are the sufferings in which we share?

What does the image of being a "soldier of Christ" say to me? Is it an image that speaks to me of conquering, or one that speaks to me of discipline?

Prayer:

Help me, O God.
I want to be faithful.
I want to be loving.
I want to be
all that you see me to be.
I'm just not sure
how to go about it.
Open me to the teachers around me
and within me.
Help me to hear, and see, and live,
in your love.

Today, I remember and pray for _____,
friends blessed by your love and compassion.

For your grace,
with your love,
and in Christ's name, I pray.

Saturday

Scripture:

- Jeremiah 28.1-17
- Psalm 66.1-12
- Luke 5.12-16

Reflection:

Have you noticed how many prophecies of doom being spoken lately?

Some of them are biblical... people reading various scriptures and telling us that what was written is now coming to pass.

Some of them are scientific... people analyzing data and telling us of dire changes that have happened, and are happening, in the world.

I don't know about you, but there are times I find myself wondering who to believe. Who are the real prophets... and what should I do in response to their prophecy?

I wonder if contemporary prophets follow the historic patterns of calling us to changes in our lives to bring us back into harmony with something... God... nature... life.

I wonder if that can help us to understand who the "real" prophets are?

Prayer:

God...
In all that I that I hear, and see,
and read, and learn today,
help me to hear your prophets' call.
In all that I live
and love,
and do today -
help me to respond to your prophets' call.

Today, I remember and pray for _____,
friends blessed by your love and compassion.

For your grace,
with your love
In Christ's name I pray.