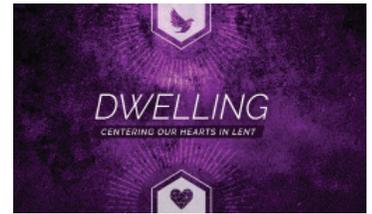


## DAILY READING PLAN



Week of March 6, 2022

### Dwelling

Genesis 2:7; Joel 2:28-30; Acts 2:1-4

#### Day One | Read Job 33:4

*“The spirit of God made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.”*

This week we begin our new series called ‘Dwelling.’ During this season of Lent, we will focus on what it means to dwell in God’s presence, with God, as God dwells in us through the Spirit who gives us life. This dwelling is called “Incarnation,” the central Christian understanding that God became human, that God became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood in the form of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

- How would you describe God’s constant presence within you? How are you aware of that?

#### Day Two: | Read Genesis 2:7

After God had created the heavens and the earth, day and night, water, land, trees, plants, large animals, small animals, sea creatures, cattle, reptiles, bugs, and fish... *“then the LORD God formed the [hu]man from the dust of the ground. God breathed the breath of life into the [hu]man’s nostrils, and the [hu]man became a living person.”*

Let’s consider this: God’s breath, the Holy Spirit, was first breathed into humankind, giving humankind life. Our breathing is a sign of God’s presence in us. Every breath we breathe is a gift of new life – each one, a gift of life from God.

- Find a quiet place where you can sit for just a few uninterrupted moments. Then, draw three big deep breaths in through the nose, then out through the mouth with your eyes open. Then close your eyes and let your breathing return to its normal rhythms. As you do this, imagine this passage from Genesis 2. How can you become more aware of your breathing, each breath as a gift from God to you?

#### Day Three: | Read Joel 2:28-30

On the way toward creating a new community of faithful people, *God said, “I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will [speak the Good News of God’s salvation on behalf of God]. Your old men will dream dreams, and your young men will see visions. In those days, I will pour out my Spirit even on servants—men and women alike. And I will cause wonders in the heavens and on the earth....”*

- How would you talk about how God’s Spirit is poured out on you? As the Holy Spirit dwells in us, and we dwell in God’s Spirit, God inspires, animates, and empowers us to embody the Good News of hope for the world.

#### Day Four: | Read Acts 2:1-4

As the church is born and people’s lives are being transformed with the Good News of Jesus’ resurrection, the Holy Spirit filled the lives of those early believers: *“When the Feast of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Then, without warning, there was a sound like a strong wind, gale force—no one could tell where it came from. It filled the whole building. Then, like a wildfire, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks, and they started speaking in a number of different languages as the Spirit prompted them.”*

- Recall a time when something inspired you, a time that was so remarkable that it quickened your breathing or “took your breath away.” What was it? Why did that moment inspire you?

### **Day Five: | Read 2 Corinthians 3:17**

We awaken to the work of the Spirit within us by exploring what it means to live into the freedom that the Spirit creates. In 2 Corinthians 3:17, Paul writes, *“For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.”* The Holy Spirit sets us free to be the people God is creating us to be. A helpful way to focus on that is with this “Breath Prayer.”

- Sitting in a quiet place, let your breathing slow by taking a few deep breaths. As you inhale, say this phrase: “God dwells with me.” As you exhale, bring these words to mind: “I dwell with God.” Do this at least three times.