

Sunday, June 10

First Reading
[Genesis 3:8-15](#)

Psalm
[Psalm 130](#)

Second Reading
[2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1](#)

Gospel
[Mark 3:20-35](#)

OPENING PRAYER

O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall
proclaim your praise.
Glory to the Father,
and to the Son and to
the Holy Spirit: as it
was in the beginning,
is now, and will be
forever. Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

O God, you have
called your servants
to ventures of which
we cannot see the
ending, by paths as
yet untrodden,
through perils
unknown. Give us
faith to go out with
good courage, not
knowing where we go,
but only that your
hand is leading us
and your love
supporting us;
through Jesus Christ
our Lord. Amen.

Additional prayer ideas
on Page 2.

2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1 (NLT)

¹³ But we continue to preach because we have the same kind of faith the psalmist had when he said, "I believed in God, so I spoke." ¹⁴ We know that God, who raised the Lord Jesus, will also raise us with Jesus and present us to himself together with you. ¹⁵ All of this is for your benefit. And as God's grace reaches more and more people, there will be great thanksgiving, and God will receive more and more glory.

¹⁶ That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. ¹⁷ For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they

produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!

¹⁸ So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

^{5:1} For we know that when this earthly tent we live in is taken down (that is, when we die and leave this earthly body), we will have a house in heaven, an eternal body made for us by God and not by human hands.

I WONDER

- I wonder what you see around you that is new.
- God is making all things new, but hasn't finished yet; we are still waiting. I wonder what it is like to wait for something you want to happen. ... I wonder what it is like to wait for a really long time. ... I wonder what to do while you wait.
- I wonder if we can see God working in the in-between time.

SLOW DEVOTIONS

Paul said, "We fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen."

You can train your eyes to see things that cannot be seen—to see God working in the world—but it takes practice.

Think back over your day (or yesterday if it's early in the morning). Pick out one or more events and fill in the blanks:

I remember _____

I saw God in _____

I thank God for _____

For example: "I remember Mom giving me a hug. I saw God in her compassion. I thank God for loving me like a mother."

ACTIVE DEVOTIONS

→ **Make brunch together.** As you gather ingredients:

- Look at an unbroken egg or uncut melon. What's inside it? How do you know? How is this like faith?
- Think about how the food will sustain your body. What sustains your spirit? What will sustain your eternal body?

→ **What will your house look like in heaven?** Get a piece of paper and marker or pen. The youngest person in the group starts by drawing the shape of the house. Pass the page to the next youngest, with each person adding something they imagine for their heavenly house.

Going Deeper

PRAY A NEW WAY

Beach ball prayer: Select someone to start the prayer. Holding the ball, the leader says, “**Dear Lord, You give us so many reasons to praise you. We thank you for this time together. We thank you for sending us your son to guide and walk with us. And we thank you for ...**” The leader tosses the ball to someone in the group, who shouts out the first thing that pops into their head and then tosses the ball to another. Keep tossing the ball until everyone has shared — keep going if the group wants!

Leader-led prayer: Select a leader. Each member of the group shares their prayer request with the group. This can be done at the start of the devotion time or the end. The leader takes notes and includes the requests in the closing prayer. (This is a great way to teach kids to be comfortable with making up their own prayers.)

Praying with posture: Follow your heart’s lead to pray with mind and body. You can use the prayer below or say your own.

- Kneeling
- Sitting
- Standing
- Bowing
- Lying prostrate (face-down and flat)
- Hands up

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Seeing through God’s Eyes

Have you ever thought of someone right before the phone rang, and then heard that person’s voice? Have you ever woken up before your baby started to cry? In our passage, Paul seems to indicate that just as Elijah heard a still, small voice, and Moses climbed a mountain to see God’s glory, we can discover God’s presence all around us—inside and out—if we have the eyes of the heart to see.

There is an old story about a disciple and his teacher, a story Paul might have liked: “*Where shall I find God?*” a disciple once asked. “*Here,*” the teacher said. “*Then why can’t I see God?*” “*Because you do not look.*” “*But what should I look for?*” the disciple continued. “*Nothing. Just look,*” the teacher said. “*But at what?*” “*At anything your eyes alight upon,*” the teacher said. “*But must I look in a special kind of way?*” “*No, the ordinary way will do.*” “*But don’t I always look the ordinary way?*” “*No, you don’t,*” the teacher said. “*But why ever not?*” the disciple pressed. “*Because to look, you must be here. You’re mostly somewhere else,*” the teacher said.

God’s presence and triumph is both internal and external—as the resurrected Christ renews us from the inside out, but also as God continues to birth in our midst, and before our very eyes, a new heaven and earth.¹

¹David L. Bartlett and Barbara Brown Taylor. Feasting on the Word: Year B, Volume 3: Pentecost and Season after Pentecost 1 (Proprs 3-16) (Feasting on the Word: Year B volume) (Kindle Locations 4146-4161). Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. Kindle Edition.

ANYTIME ACTIVITIES

- ★ [Pray and color](#)
- ★ [Gratitude photo hunt](#)
- ★ [Make a mandala](#)
- ★ [Create a Zen garden](#)

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