

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

10 May

Stones feature in our readings today. If you have a stone nearby, you might like to have it in your hand, or close by as we go through today.



Read: Acts 7:55-60, Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16, 1 Peter 2:2-10

What words come to mind about stones from each of the readings. Write them down in the space below.

to Ponder: stones can be a point of refuge, a place to stand on, something solid. They can shape the path of water, or show us where to step on a path. Stones can be thrown, for fun like skimming, or to hurt, even kill, like in Acts. Stones can be climbed, or we can hide behind them. As you think about the readings, and stones and your faith, where do you connect at this present time with who God is? Share together in the house, or with someone else over the phone.

Pray: If you have a stone you might like to hold it in your hand as you pray. Give thanks to God for the safety and security that can be experienced in life. Hold moments before God, when our raw emotions tempt us to “throw stones”. Pray for those who are need in of safety and security.

May you know this day, God’s goodness and forgiveness as strong and sure as the stones we can hold.

A song to lift our hearts: There are many songs we may have sung as young people about Jesus and stones. If you can recall any songs like that, share in your household what they were. If you can remember any of the verses or choruses, you might like to try and sing them!

A Blessing: Take the strength of God with you in your steps. May you be blessed in all you do, and share God’s blessing with another. Amen.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

17 May

Pray: Give thanks to God for what it good. Write or draw what you are thankful for in the space.

Read: Acts 17:22-31

As you read become aware of what stands out for you?

Read through it again.

Share what connected to you, what you found new, what was challenging.



to Ponder: What are the ways we might describe God? How do we know God is like that? What has been your experience of God showing you who God is in your life? You might like to “write a letter” to someone else as a way of putting your words together. You don’t have to send it, just write it. Or perhaps there is an image, or song, or story that brings your sense of God to life. Paul helped the Athenians to do this in today’s reading.

A song to lift our hearts: What is a song you know that helps you to sing of who God is for you? If you have a copy of the words, you might like to sing it in your household. Or perhaps as you talk with someone over the phone, you can each share a song you have - with or without singing it!

Pray: Have a moment of silence and name in your hearts those people who have been on your mind. As you name them, become aware of God holding them. Imagine God holding them, knowing their situation, and why it is they’ve been on your mind.

Lord, hear our prayers for those we love, those we are concerned about, and those who are in need of your presence.

A Blessing: The presence of God, Father, Son and Spirit, guide, sustain and care for you in today and into your tomorrows. Love as you know God’s love to be for you. Amen.

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - Jesus' Ascension

24 May

to Ponder: When have you experienced a moment of awe and wonder? Share something of that with another person, either over the phone or with those in your house.



Read: Acts 1:6-14, John 17:1-11

Today there are two stories that are connected to Jesus' return to heaven, and to the way in which God resides with us still. What verses give you a sense of assurance for you in your journey of faith? What verses do you find are challenging for you in your journey of faith? Talk about them with another if you can.

A song to lift to our hearts: Songs often help to strengthen a reassurance of God's presence with us. They help to give us words to bring praise or glory to who God is. What song can you recall that helps you to do that. If you can remember the words to some of it, sing them. Or perhaps hum the tune. If you have the words with you, let it rip from your heart!

Pray: In the space write the names of the people you are concerned for. You might like to name a situation, or an issue of concern within the world. As you write, let the forming of the letters become your way of praying today.

A blessing: God of glory, wonder and awe, keep our eyes, our hearts, our minds, our ears, open to your presence in the world around us. May we know your protection in the name of Jesus, that with you we are all one. May we live as people who carry this blessing in every moment of every day. Amen.