

**OCTOBER 6, 2024
TWENTIETH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**



God created us to be in relationships.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Mark 10:2-16	Jesus blesses the children
Monday	Genesis 2:18-24	God creates a human partner
Tuesday	Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12	God has spoken through Jesus
Wednesday	1 Peter 4:7-11	Good stewards of God's grace
Thursday	Proverbs 13:20	Be wise
Friday	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Be ready for the Lord's coming
Saturday	Psalm 8	God honors humanity
Sunday	Mark 10:17-31	A rich man goes away sad

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." Genesis 2:18 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Loving God, you created us to have a relationship to you, others, and the whole earth; help us to love all that you create through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you that you care for us and give us this food that we may have strength to serve the creation you give us to cherish. In Jesus' name, amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God's care for you give you joy. (Psalm 8)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

Golden Breaks the Dawn



taking
faith
home

WEEKLY MILESTONES



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What is your favorite thing to do in God's creation?
- Where do you see the "good" in God's creation?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Genesis 2:18-24.

It is easy to miss the playfulness and depth of this creation story. First, in Genesis 2:18 we discover that, "It is not good that the man should be alone." The all-knowing God seems to have difficulty finding the right helper for the human (translated as "man" in the English text). All the possible helpers as partners for the human that God creates (animals of the field and birds of the air) don't work. God is playfully engaging the human to help find the right helpmate. Second, this story includes a relational depth that weaves the language of the human (*ha'adam* in the Hebrew) created out of the earth (*ha'adamah*). The female-male relationship is seen in the creation of the woman out of the rib of the human. The idea of woman as helper is not a submissive role because in the Old Testament, it is God who is seen as the helper. Genesis 2 describes humanity as intimately connected and created to form community and not to be alone. God helps us live lives deeply relational to God, one another, and the earth.

Discuss: Where do you see the importance of relationships in God's creation?

Pray: **Creator God, you intend for us to live in relationship to you, each other, and creation; heal our divisions and give a vision of the joy of life lived together in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you help someone enjoy creation and daily life relationships?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



In Mark 10:13-16 Jesus told the people to bring the children to him. He placed his hands on the little children and blessed them. One of the most significant spiritual acts a parent, grandparent, or other adult can do for and with a child is to regularly bless them. When we bless a child of God of any age we declare and convey God's favor to them and give them the hope and assurance of God's loving care. Bless a child of God using the words from *A Blessing to Give*: **May God's care for you give you joy.** (Psalm 8)



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org