

All Saints Kingston  
Lent Course 2021



# Scripture for a pandemic

Wednesdays in Lent 7.30-8.30pm

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81516776876?pwd=dXo1dU9kMzd2eFBzT1VtWC9vdk3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 815 1677 6876  
Passcode: 645929

In this document you will find five different passages from Scripture. They have been chosen by a different person each week who will share one or two initial thoughts about them and then facilitate a discussion. If you'd like to, please read them beforehand and come and join us.

Everyone is very welcome.

## Wednesday, 24th February

### Martin Corner

The Psalms are basic to the Jewish and Christian traditions not just for their antiquity (some up to 3,000 years) or because they were part of Jesus's spiritual equipment, but because they embody the basic stance of humanity toward God, which is one of appeal; appeal from a point where other resources have been exhausted. The pandemic has reminded us how close we live to that point.

*Psalm 42 (two versions)*

(1) NRSV 1989

As a deer longs for flowing streams,  
so my soul longs for you, O God.

<sup>2</sup>My soul thirsts for God,  
for the living God.

When shall I come and behold  
the face of God?

<sup>3</sup>My tears have been my food  
day and night,  
while people say to me continually,  
'Where is your God?'

<sup>4</sup>These things I remember,  
as I pour out my soul:  
how I went with the throng,<sup>1</sup>  
and led them in procession to the house of God,  
with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving,  
a multitude keeping festival.

<sup>5</sup>Why are you cast down, O my soul,  
and why are you disquieted within me?  
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,  
my help <sup>6</sup>and my God.

My soul is cast down within me;  
therefore I remember you  
from the land of Jordan and of Hermon,  
from Mount Mizar.

<sup>7</sup>Deep calls to deep  
at the thunder of your cataracts;  
all your waves and your billows  
have gone over me.

<sup>8</sup>By day the LORD commands his steadfast love,  
and at night his song is with me,  
a prayer to the God of my life.

<sup>9</sup>I say to God, my rock,  
'Why have you forgotten me?  
Why must I walk about mournfully  
because the enemy oppresses me?'

<sup>10</sup>As with a deadly wound in my body,  
my adversaries taunt me,  
while they say to me continually,  
'Where is your God?'

<sup>11</sup>Why are you cast down, O my soul,  
and why are you disquieted within me?  
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,  
my help and my God.



(1) *Norman Fischer, 2002*

As the hart thrills for the fresh brook  
So do I thrill for you  
I am thirsty for you—for my life—  
When will I go there?  
When will I be seen?  
When will I enter your utter presence?

I have swallowed my tears all day and all night  
Because people mock me all day saying  
“Where is your beloved? Show us, convince us”

When I remember these things  
My heart pours out within me:  
How I journeyed with the pilgrim throngs  
My ears alive with thanksgiving songs  
Up to your house for the festival—  
Why am I downcast and disturbed?

My hope is yet in you  
One day I will thank you  
When in you I find wholeness  
And my anguish is gone

How my heart is broken, pours out within me!  
Therefore I will remember you  
From the lands of Jordan, from the peaks of Hermon  
From the foothills there

Deep calls out to deep  
In your towering waterfall  
Waves and billows drench me

In the daytime you summon your kindness  
And at night you sing to me  
A prayer for my life to be living  
So I will rise in the morning and sing to you.  
My rock, why have you forgotten me?

Why must I walk  
Grieving up and down  
Oppressed and opposed?  
My very bones snap

When the others revile me all day long saying,  
“Where is your beloved? Show me, convince me”  
Why is my heart broken, pouring within me?

My hope is yet in you  
And one day I will give you thanks  
When I am whole

## **Wednesday, March 3rd**

### **William Allberry**

Psalm 91

Assurance of God's Protection

You who live in the shelter of the Most High,  
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,  
will say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my fortress;  
my God, in whom I trust.'  
For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler  
and from the deadly pestilence;  
he will cover you with his pinions,  
and under his wings you will find refuge;  
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.  
You will not fear the terror of the night,  
or the arrow that flies by day,  
or the pestilence that stalks in darkness,  
or the destruction that wastes at noonday.

A thousand may fall at your side,  
ten thousand at your right hand,  
but it will not come near you.  
You will only look with your eyes  
and see the punishment of the wicked.

Because you have made the Lord your refuge,  
the Most High your dwelling-place,  
no evil shall befall you,  
no scourge come near your tent.

For he will command his angels concerning you  
to guard you in all your ways.  
On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.  
You will tread on the lion and the adder,  
the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.

Those who love me, I will deliver;  
I will protect those who know my name.  
When they call to me, I will answer them;  
I will be with them in trouble,  
I will rescue them and honour them.  
With long life I will satisfy them,  
and show them my salvation.

**Wednesday, March 10th**  
**Katherine Willis**

Romans 8:22-27

We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

## Wednesday, March 17th

### Sandy Cragg

Psalm 57

Praise and Assurance under Persecution

To the leader: Do Not Destroy. Of David. A Miktam, when he fled from Saul, in the cave.

<sup>1</sup> Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me,  
for in you my soul takes refuge;  
in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge,  
until the destroying storms pass by.

<sup>2</sup> I cry to God Most High,  
to God who fulfils his purpose for me.

<sup>3</sup> He will send from heaven and save me,  
he will put to shame those who trample on me.

*Selah*

God will send forth his steadfast love and his faithfulness.

<sup>4</sup> I lie down among lions  
that greedily devour human prey;  
their teeth are spears and arrows,  
their tongues sharp swords.

<sup>5</sup> Be exalted, O God, above the heavens.  
Let your glory be over all the earth.

<sup>6</sup> They set a net for my steps;  
my soul was bowed down.  
They dug a pit in my path,  
but they have fallen into it themselves.

*Selah*

<sup>7</sup> My heart is steadfast, O God,  
my heart is steadfast.  
I will sing and make melody.

<sup>8</sup> Awake, my soul!  
Awake, O harp and lyre!  
I will awake the dawn.

<sup>9</sup> I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples;  
I will sing praises to you among the nations.

<sup>10</sup> For your steadfast love is as high as the heavens;  
your faithfulness extends to the clouds.

<sup>11</sup> Be exalted, O God, above the heavens.  
Let your glory be over all the earth.

## **Wednesday, March 24th**

### **Jonathan Wilkes**

Joshua 1:1-9

After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying, "My servant Moses is dead. Now proceed to cross the Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the Israelites. Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, as I promised to Moses. From the wilderness and the Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, to the Great Sea in the west shall be your territory. No one shall be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. Be strong and courageous; for you shall put this people in possession of the land that I swore to their ancestors to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to act in accordance with all the law that my servant Moses commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, so that you may be successful wherever you go. This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall be successful. I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.