

Sermons

Seekers recognizes that any member of the community may be called upon by God to give us the Word, and thus we have an open pulpit with a different preacher each week. Sermons preached at Seekers, as well as sermons preached by Seekers at other churches or events, are posted here, beginning with the most recent.

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[**Wisdom by Jacqie Wallen**](#)



September 15, 2024

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

At the June Women's Breakfast, we got to talking about artificial intelligence and I shared that I was using an artificial intelligence program, ChatGPT, to provide some ideas for parts of a mystery novel I was writing. In the process, I have become quite enamored of the app. Later someone at the breakfast mentioned that it was about time for me to give a sermon. Someone, I don't remember who (maybe me?) put the two together and said, "What about using Chat GPT to

write a sermon.” So, I thought I would, just for fun, try doing just that. I hope you enjoy this experiment in writing a sermon with AI. There’s a lot about Wisdom (with a capital W) in today’s lectionary readings. These were my instructions to ChatGPT: “Wisdom is portrayed as a woman in the New Testament and the Hebrew scriptures. Write a sermon about this that reflects a feminist point of view and include the idea of God, Wisdom, and the Word as feminine. Also include the idea of God as a mother.” I did a lot of editing of the AI text to make the sermon sound more like me and added some of my own reflections on mothers and the divine feminine as well as thoughts about recommitment since this is Recommitment Season, but most of the ideas in the following sermon were provided by ChatGPT.

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I am Open, I am Opened by Kate Lasso



September 8, 2024

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

I am Open, I am Opened

It's September, and we can feel the coolness of the coming Autumn season in the air this morning. I love the promise of change that I always sense as Autumn approaches. From Jeanne Marcus I understand you all are entering into a season of recommitment at Seekers, in a year with the theme of Being Opened.

I take note that the phrase is “Being Opened” (not “Being Open). However, I would like to add my perspective, which is that to really be opened and to take in that experience, consent is required. Whatever internal resistance that may be present must yield. We say “yes” somewhere along the way – for me, this is the essence of faith and committing to the inward work a spiritual journey.

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[“Why We Come to Church” by Patricia Nemore](#)



September 1, 2024

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Albert Camus ends his essay, "The Myth of Sisyphus", thus:

I leave Sisyphus at the foot of the mountain. One always finds one's burden again. But Sisyphus teaches the higher fidelity that negates the gods and raises rocks. He too concludes that all is well. This universe henceforth without a master seems to him neither sterile nor futile. Each atom of that stone, each mineral flake of that night-filled mountain, in itself, forms a world. The struggle itself toward the heights is enough to fill a man's heart. One must imagine Sisyphus happy.

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["Lord, to whom can we go?" by Erica Lloyd](#)



August 25, 2024

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Let's pray: Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of our hearts make us closer to whom you mean us to be. Amen

I will start with a confession that's hopefully not going to make you *too* worried about the next 15 minutes: for months, I've been struggling because scripture has felt stale to me. I'd been growing impatient every time I cracked open the Bible, only to find the same old words and same old stories. Even worse, I had the same old reactions, as if I, too, was growing stale. In the midst of this struggle, I made the counter-intuitive decision to say yes when Deborah reached out to see if I would preach, in the hopes that forcing myself to engage would bring some life back into my relationship with scripture. I chose today because three years ago this gospel reading really touched a nerve. A crowd of Jesus' followers, once hopeful, become befuddled, distressed, and ultimately disenchanted with him. As they drift away one by one, Jesus turns to his disciples: "Do you also wish to go away?" He asks.

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[**"Becoming Bread" by Marjory Zoet Bankson**](#)



August 18, 2024

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Text: John 6:51-58

What a rich season of sermons we've had in this series on becoming bread. First there was the feeding of 5,000 people with 5 loaves and 2 fish: a literal miracle of generosity apparently created by a child's good example of sharing what he had. Then there was Elizabeth's sermon on the crowd's demand for more miracles and Jesus' response: "*the bread of God comes down from heaven and gives life to the world,*" and when the people wanted that bread, Jesus told them "*I am the bread of life.*" **If we were reading the Gospel of John in one sitting**, chapter 6 would move us from literally sharing bread with hungry strangers to Jesus as the symbolic bread of life, to be chewed on and ingested in our daily lives.

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