

Promises Kept

Narrative Lectionary
September 13-November 22 2020
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2020-2021

September 13
Genesis 2:4b-7, 15-17; 3:1-8

This liturgy can be adapted to done responsively if worshipping online or you may choose to use it with just one reader/speaker for in-person worship.

Call to Worship

Welcome to this space where the ordinary is sanctified
Where the unexpected is to be expected
Where diversity is celebrated
And life is revered

Come into this space where perfect has no place
where pain is not ignored and potential is recognized
where everybody is somebody
and Jesus is Lord

Come into this place where God calls us in and sends us out
Where laughing and running are not hushed and stilled
but celebrated and delighted in.

Come and worship God.

Prayer of Confession/Reconciliation/Telling the Truth

Adam and Eve realized that they were naked before God—that everything about them was laid bare before the one who created them. That is our constant state of being. There is nothing about us that is hidden from God. So we are free to be open and honest about the places in our lives where we falter and fail.

Let us pray.

Creator of all, we confess that we would LOVE to have the power to make the world work for our needs, instead of working for the needs of the world that You have created. We seek comfort in the false illusion that we are in control. Help us to quit putting our trust in the things of this

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world that fail us every time. Lead us in Your ways that seek the well-being of all of Your creation. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen

Sermon Inspo

The late humorist Lewis Grizzard used to say that the difference between being nude and being nekkid is that nude just means you don't have any clothes on. Nekkid means you don't have any clothes on and you're up to something! Adam and Eve were most definitely nekkid.

On Not Leaving it to the Snake by Harvey Cox

If they were casting this story as a movie today, the snake would most likely be replaced by a compilation of every bad guy who ever appeared in a 1980s John Hughes movie. A cross between a spoiled rich kid and a burned-out principal would be the one tempting Eve to eat the apple in a move that would be half-seduction/half-intimidation.

Of course, after both Eve and Adam have eaten the forbidden fruit and gotten caught by God, Adam blames Eve. She *gave* me the apple (probably more like a pomegranate). He knew it was a dick move the moment the words came out of his mouth, but by then, it was too late to take it back. The damage had been done. They realized they were naked. They were terribly ashamed. Paradise was lost.

This is often called the story of original sin, but perhaps it is better thought of as the story of original shame. The moment shame entered our world. The moment that humans begin to feel that we are unworthy.

And we've been wandering in the wastelands ever since, bearing the shame we've been trying to shed since time began—despite the efforts of THE God to offer us the Way home.

Location Ideas:

If you're doing remote worship, consider delivering your message from under a tree. If you have access to a fruit tree, that would be amazing!

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If you want to get really fancy, record the reading of the scripture in a lush setting but deliver your message in a desolate place to demonstrate the stark reality Adam and Eve had to face.

Song Suggestions:

I don't delineate between sacred and secular music. Many different styles of music have the power to touch, heal and transform people. That all seems pretty holy to me. (I've starred the pieces you should be sure to check out if you don't already know them.)

Pop Music

[Adam and Eve](#)—Bob Seeger

[Cold Hearted Snake](#)—Paula Abdul

[Forbidden Fruit](#)—Nina Simone

[Dem Bones Gonna Rise Again](#) (Kid's Song)

Contemporary Christian

[God of Wonders](#)—Third Day

[*Good \(Adam and Eve\)](#)—Matthew West and Leigh Nash

Traditional

How Great Thou Art

All Creatures of Our God and King

All things Bright and Beautiful

God of the Sparrow

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