

Website Worship
for
A Snowy Weekend:

BRUEN CHAPEL UMC WILL BE CLOSED ON SUNDAY or until roads are cleared sufficiently, the LOT is plowed, and people can get there safely to open the facility.

We should stay home, if at all possible, during the snow

emergency. Out of consideration for those who might have to rescue us or be hurt if we do something silly or dangerous AND for all those hard-working operators of snow removal equipment who may be working 24/7—

Hence, the following suggestion for personal or family worship this weekend.

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Prelude: Listen to Christmas Music! Why not? Enjoy “White Christmas” in January.

Call to Worship — Psalm 19: 1-2 (Contemporary English Version)

*Heaven is declaring God’s glory;  
the sky is proclaiming his handiwork.  
One day gushes the news to the next,  
and one night informs another what needs to be known. . . .*

Hymns/Songs to google: “God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens” (#150 in the United Methodist Hymnal), Chris Tomlin’s “God of Wonders”

Opening Prayer: Google “New every morning is your love” + “God” - check out the first four or five items that come up. Pastor’s Discovery: I found an 1822 prayer hymn by John Kebler that I had never read through completely before at <[oremus.org](http://oremus.org)>

Three Scripture Readings for Today: Nehemiah 8: 1-10; I (ONE) Corinthians 12: 12-31; Luke 4: 14-21. Read one or all - You can “Google” these and find a number of different websites where you can read them in numerous English translations or versions or the alternative language of your choice.

For your Reflection — The following Richard Rohr Meditation that came in by e-mail yesterday (with invitation to share with friends) + pastor’s questions. Source (for Everything in Black Print): Richard Rohr’s Meditation (Center for Action and Contemplation no-reply@cac) for January 23. Copied from the daily e-mail on 1.23.2016. Questions in Red are Rev. Ruth Burgess’s musings.

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**Summary - Richard Rohr: Incarnation: Week 2**

Sunday, January 17-Friday, January 22, 2016

\*The only way I know how to teach anyone to love God, and how I myself can love God, is to love what God loves, which is everything and everyone, including you and including me! (Sunday) **The goal of Christian discipleship, and of “disciple-making” enterprises carried out by Jesus’s followers?**

\*Jesus' resurrection is not a one-time anomaly, but the regular and universal structure of reality revealed in one person. (Monday)

Picture in your mind's eye a flash of lightning and the way it brilliantly illuminates a scene for a couple of seconds. Have you ever thought you saw "all of reality" revealed in something or someone or a particular situation of your own time or place? How do we and our times and places measure up when compared to Jesus?

\*Eternal life is not "chronological moments of endless duration," *but time as momentous and revealing the whole right now.* (Tuesday)

\*The Risen Jesus, still bearing his wounds, is revealing the goal, the fullness, and the purpose of humanity itself, which is "that we are able to share in the divine nature" (2 Peter 1:4), even in this wounded and wounding world. (Wednesday)

\*According to Teilhard de Chardin, the Risen Christ is the divine lure, a blinking, brilliant light set as the Omega Point of time and history that keeps reminding us that love, not death, is the eternal thing. (Thursday)

If the Church is called to be the Body of Christ in the world — not just embodying the Christ who is crucified, but the Risen Jesus, 'de Chardin's "Omega Point" reminding us the love, not death is the eternal thing' — what are the implications of this for a typical congregation's schedule and plans?

\*Jesus is not observing human suffering from a distance but is somehow *in* human suffering with us and for us. (Friday)

**If we are called to be "temples of the Holy Spirit" (to be Holy it must be Christ-like!), then Christ also is potentially in us, intentionally suffering through us for others.**

Have you ever suffered intentionally for another's sake (even a little bit)? Have you ever imagined Christ living through you, and loving that other person or the world sacrificially, in that moment of your intentional self-giving?

How would your life change if you - aware that Christ might want to live through you - became more intentional about practicing gracious self-giving, trying to love others with Christ-like love?

How would you avoid a "martyr complex" - a most annoying personal characteristic - without jettisoning the goal of being generous with yourself even if it might hurt?

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Practice of Prayer: Make a List of your Prayer Concerns and Reflect on each one of them in silence. At the end, you can speak your prayer or think, "Lord in your mercy, hear my prayer." (Pray for yourselves and those close to you. Pray ALSO, however, for the needy of our world and the world itself. What to pray? How about phrases from "Joy to the World" — e.g. "No more let sins or sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground, . . ." Conclude with "The Lord's Prayer".

Hymns and Songs to End Website Worship Time — Google one of these (or think of a favorite and sing it out loud along with the best YouTube version you can find)

“The Church’s One Foundation” by Samuel Stone

“We Are God’s People” by Bryan Jeffery Leech

“Let the River Flow” by Darrell Evans (MERCY ME). (Ask yourself how YOU can serve the interests of the RIVER by letting it flow through you!)

Benediction: Be at peace and enjoy the snow that has forced all of the “busy, busy” Washington area to observe true “Sabbath Rest”!