

## Bound Together Virtually: What's God Up to in All This?

A Few Resources

March 2021

### From Saint Mark's Cathedral:

The Very Rev. Steven Thomason ([sthomason@saintmarks.org](mailto:sthomason@saintmarks.org))

- For inquirer's and seekers: Jenifer Gamber's ***Your Faith, Your Life: An Invitation to the Episcopal Church***
- In the last year Saint Mark's drew on "pandemic as sabbath" theme, using Rabbi Heschel's seminal book, ***Sabbath***, and Walter Brueggemann's ***Sabbath as Resistance***.
- In the area of anti-racism work, Saint Mark's curated a lengthy bibliography (see separate attachment) for a summer 2020 series, and are now diving into Howard Thurman's ***Jesus and the Disinherited*** for a Lenten engagement with our Theologian-in-Residence. We also read and discussed Michael Curry's ***Love is the Way***.
- For the Pilgrimage to Iona (rescheduled for 2022), Saint Mark's is using the attached reading list, and we met twice this past year engaging Celtic spirituality. We are also using Phil Cousineau's ***The Art of Pilgrimage***.

### From St. James, Renton:

Sister D Bracher ([bracherd@gmail.com](mailto:bracherd@gmail.com))

- ***The Circle Way: A Leader in Every Chair*** by Christina Baldwin & Anne Linnea is a practical resource for circle and restorative practices which we use to moderate and provide norms at St. James and with the Little Sisters of St. Clare for their Zoom meetings. Circle practice takes time to learn, but ultimately it allows for equity of response when all are heard and have equal say. The authors are both local have great online resources at their website [www.circleway.net](http://www.circleway.net)
- Building on The Circle Way practices we've begun the hard and necessary work of educating ourselves around Anti-Racism practices. We've drawn from multiple print resources including ***How to Be An Anti-Racist*** by Ibram X. Kendi, and online resources such as ***Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man*** by Emmanuel Acho. The latter who has a forthcoming book for Young Adults and Highschoolers for intergenerational work.
- ***Earth Our Monastery*** and ***The Soul's Slow Ripening*** by Christine Valters Paintner. These two slim books are a welcome change from wordy book studies while still allowing for a depth of discernment and discussion. Includes activities to do (fun homework) that get us out of our logic centers and into the outdoors, writing poetry, and doing art. The author is the lead at The Abbey of the Arts. More information at <https://abbeyofthearts.com/>
- One of the most surprising and delightful ways we've done adult formation is "Read-aloud with Sister D." It started as an idea to meet the needs of elementary children and their families. However, it turned into a predominantly older adult formation group. Each season during the pandemic, I've read one chapter from a book a week. Just one. I've read ***A Wrinkle in Time*** by Madeline L'Engle; ***The Story of the Otherwise Man*** by Henry Van Dyke;

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and now am reading *Tales of the Kingdom* by David and Karen Mains. We talk about the plot, but also the theme of the chapter and how it relates to our faith journey.

From St. Paul's, Bellingham:

The Rev. Lindsay Hunt-Ross ([lrh@stpaulsbellingham.org](mailto:lrh@stpaulsbellingham.org)) and Martin Pommerenke ([martinwp3@gmail.com](mailto:martinwp3@gmail.com))

- **Christian Foundations** workbook for our "Christianity 201" series, published by Wycliffe College - <https://www.wycliffecollege.ca/christian-foundations>, a broad and basic curriculum that covers broad areas of discipleship, Old and New Testaments, and church history.
- **Surprised by Jesus Again:** Reading the Bible in Communion with the Saints by Jason Byassee - readable introduction to ways of exegesis done by the patristics and other ancient Christians. Has a particular focus on Christian interpretations of scriptures in the Hebrew Bible that don't supplant Jewish ones, but acknowledge the Jewish roots of Christianity
- **Engaging the Word** by Michael Johnston

We're also drawing material from these three books (and the Catechism of the BCP) for those new to the Episcopal Church to talk about ways Episcopalians practice their faith similarly and differently from the ways of other traditions:

- **Living the Questions:** The Wisdom of Progressive Christianity by David M. Felten and Jeff Procter- Murphy
- **The Heart of Christianity:** Rediscovering a Life of Faith by Marcus Borg
- **The Episcopal Way:** Church's Teachings for a Changing World, Vol 1 by Stephanie Spellers and Eric H.F. Law

A Few Other Resources:

- See Sue Tait's Virtual Book Display for many other resources!