

PREPARING AT HOME

February 26-March 4, 2018

Focus reading: Psalm 19 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=382685545>)

Other lectionary readings: Exodus 20:1–17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18–25; John 2:13–22

Theme: Contemplate God's Glory

Part of Psalm 19 is about Creation and part of the psalm is about the law, leading some to think that what is now one psalm was originally two separate psalms. To divide the two parts and attribute them to completely different psalms makes sense to our modern minds, because we tend to see the material world and spiritual truths as two completely separate realms. Some commentators, however, point out that ancient Israelites would see no division. The people of Israel worshipped the Creator, who taught them as much through the creation as through the law. The sky and the sea told them about God just as loudly and clearly as the commandments did. Those who would seek to follow God's ways were called to live in harmony with Creation. This psalm is ascribed to David, who as a shepherd learned the lessons Creation had to teach. As a king, he also learned what it meant to live under God's law. We have no shortage of testimony about God. The skies and rocks themselves tell of God's glory, and the commandments enlighten us with truth. The Reformer John Calvin taught that God is revealed in Creation but that we need the illumination of the Scripture so that we can know who this God truly is. Both nature and the written Word declare God's glory, perfectly revealed in Jesus!

LISTEN TO CREATION

Go on a silent walk outdoors with your child. No talking allowed! As soon as the walk is finished and you are indoors, talk about what you heard creation saying. Those who wish may draw pictures with speech clouds that show what you "heard."

WRITING AN ACROSTIC

Psalm 19 is an acrostic, meaning that each line begins with successive letters of the alphabet. Write an acrostic poem or song of praise. The first word of the first line should begin with the letter "A;" the second line should begin with "B," the third line starts with "C," and so on through the letter "Z."

LET THE PICTURES SPEAK

Take photographs of nature that show how Creation tells us about God. Make a booklet of your photos.

PRAYER

Creator God,
All of Creation tells of your power, wisdom, goodness, and love.
Help us to hear the songs of the earth, sea, and sky
and to join our voices in praise and thanksgiving.
Amen.

Prospect Presbyterian Church, Maplewood, NJ, www.prospectchurch.org

Rita Boyer, rita@prospectchurch.org