

ExecCommDevoTuesSp2015

Call to Worship (unison):

Be still and know that I am God... (pause until the chime rings)

Be still and know that I am... (pause again)

Be still and know... (pause again)

Be still... (pause again)

Be... (pause)

Scripture reading-

Genesis 23:1-4 (CEB)

Sarah lived to be 127 years old; this was how long she lived. She died in Kiriath-arba, that is, in Hebron, in the land of Canaan; and Abraham cried out in grief and wept for Sarah. After he got up from embracing his deceased wife, he spoke with the Hittites: "I am an immigrant and a temporary resident with you. Give me some property for a burial plot among you so that I can bury my deceased wife near me."

I Samuel 22:1-2 (CEB)

David left Gath and escaped to Adullam's fortress. When David's siblings and all his extended family learned of this, they went to join him there. Everyone who was in trouble, in debt, or in desperate circumstances gathered around David, and he became their leader. Approximately 400 men joined him.

II Kings 24:14-15

He (Nebuchadnezzar) carried all Jerusalem into exile; all the officers and fighting men, and all the skilled workers and artisans- a total of 10,000. Only the poorest of the land were left. Nebuchadnezzar took Jehoichin captive to Bablyon. He also took from Jerusalem to Bablyon the king's mother, his wives, his officials, and the prominent people of the land.

Acts 8:4-5

Those who had been scattered moved on, preaching the good news along the way. Philip went down to a city in Samaria and began to preach Christ to them.

According to the United Nations, there are over 44 million forcibly displaced people in the world (1 in every 160 people alive today). Scripture is filled with stories of displaced persons, usually called "aliens" or "strangers".

Take a moment and follow the maze with your finger. As you move through it, consider when, if ever, you have been a displaced person (displaced because of race, gender, theology, economic situation, etc...). Where was God in that situation? How were you

sustained? What did you learn about yourself and about other displaced persons? If you have never been displaced, the use the maze as an opportunity to silently pray for those who face religious persecution, abuse, and prejudice.

As we prepare to visit Deborah's House tomorrow, you are invited to think about the many persons displaced by domestic violence and abuse. Upon returning tomorrow, we are encouraged to reflect upon the experience. Perhaps you will draw a picture depicting what God is moving in you through the experience. Perhaps you will write a Cinquin poem that reflects your thoughts.

Cinquin pattern:

Noun
2 adjectives or adverbs
3 verbs
4 word statement
Noun that renames the first noun

Prayer: Loving God, giver of mercy and grace, we pause before your holy presence to seek your guidance and hope for the day. We thank you for the shelter of your love. We praise you for the gift of salvation in Christ Jesus. We pray for those who suffer in pain, hunger, depression, mistreatment, or illness. Bless us as we prayerfully enter into the ministry of Executive Committee. May we see what you see, hear what you hear, and act as you would have us to act. In the hope and joy of your Spirit's abiding presence, we pray. Amen