

Notes on Lectionary Readings - NOVEMBER 1-7, 2021.

Our Hearts' Desires

[Extract from Disciplines 2021: Upper Room]

Read Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17.

Situation - Ruth's story forms part of the background of the family of Jesus. The son of Ruth and Boaz, Obed, is David's grandfather. The women of Bethlehem rejoice with Naomi at the birth of her grandson.

Questions - Who are the people in your community who lack the basic provisions for a safe and healthy life? How do you try to help meet their needs?

Prayer - Holy God help us to be gifts of love and solidarity in all that we face together. Amen.

Read Psalm 127.

Theme - the psalmist declares that children are a blessing from God. In the scriptures, children are spoken of only as a blessing, never as a liability (unlike some narratives in our culture).

Question - In what ways do you invite God to be part of your work?

Prayer - Holy Creator, grant us wisdom, courage and balance in all we face. Amen.

Read Hebrews 9:24-28.

Situation - Hebrews builds upon the eternal nature of Christ's sacrifice, proclaiming that his death was sufficient once for all.

Questions - When have you eagerly waited for something? How did that feel?

Prayer - Come Lord Jesus and hold us fast until that day. Amen.

Read Mark 12:38-44.

Situation - Jesus warns his disciples not to be fooled by appearances. Those who put on a big show of piety do not impress God. God wants us instead to give from the heart, even if no one but God see

Question - How do you practice generosity in the way you allocate your resources and time?

Prayer - Brother Jesus, help us see Your face in all those we meet. Amen.