

# CONGREGATIONAL READINGS — January 10, 2021

## **Reading #1: Isaiah 40:18-31 (ESV)**

*Leader* / CONGREGATION

<sup>18</sup> *To whom then will you liken God, or what likeness compare with him?* <sup>19</sup> *An idol! A craftsman casts it, and a goldsmith overlays it with gold and casts for it silver chains.* <sup>20</sup> *He who is too impoverished for an offering chooses wood that will not rot; he seeks out a skillful craftsman to set up an idol that will not move.*

<sup>21</sup> **DO YOU NOT KNOW? DO YOU NOT HEAR? HAS IT NOT BEEN TOLD YOU FROM THE BEGINNING? HAVE YOU NOT UNDERSTOOD FROM THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE EARTH?** <sup>22</sup> **IT IS HE WHO SITS ABOVE THE CIRCLE OF THE EARTH, AND ITS INHABITANTS ARE LIKE GRASSHOPPERS; WHO STRETCHES OUT THE HEAVENS LIKE A CURTAIN, AND SPREADS THEM LIKE A TENT TO DWELL IN;** <sup>23</sup> **WHO BRINGS PRINCES TO NOTHING, AND MAKES THE RULERS OF THE EARTH AS EMPTINESS.** <sup>24</sup> **SCARCELY ARE THEY PLANTED, SCARCELY SOWN, SCARCELY HAS THEIR STEM TAKEN ROOT IN THE EARTH, WHEN HE BLOWS ON THEM, AND THEY WITHER, AND THE TEMPEST CARRIES THEM OFF LIKE STUBBLE.**

<sup>25</sup> *To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One.* <sup>26</sup> **LIFT UP YOUR EYES ON HIGH AND SEE: WHO CREATED THESE? HE WHO BRINGS OUT THEIR HOST BY NUMBER, CALLING THEM ALL BY NAME; BY THE GREATNESS OF HIS MIGHT AND BECAUSE HE IS STRONG IN POWER, NOT ONE IS MISSING.**

<sup>27</sup> *Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God"?* <sup>28</sup> **HAVE YOU NOT KNOWN? HAVE YOU NOT HEARD? THE LORD IS THE EVERLASTING GOD, THE CREATOR OF THE ENDS OF THE EARTH. HE DOES NOT FAINT OR GROW WEARY; HIS UNDERSTANDING IS UNSEARCHABLE.** <sup>29</sup> **HE GIVES POWER TO THE FAINT, AND TO HIM WHO HAS NO MIGHT HE INCREASES STRENGTH.**

<sup>30</sup> *Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted;* <sup>31</sup> **BUT THEY WHO WAIT FOR THE LORD SHALL RENEW THEIR STRENGTH; THEY SHALL MOUNT UP WITH WINGS LIKE EAGLES; THEY SHALL RUN AND NOT BE WEARY; THEY SHALL WALK AND NOT FAINT.**

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## **Reading #2: Teach Me, Lord, to Wait (song #764)**

Words & Music by Stuart Hamblen (1953)

*[unison throughout]*

TEACH ME, LORD, TO WAIT RIGHT DOWN ON MY KNEES  
TILL IN YOUR OWN GOOD TIME YOU ANSWER MY PLEAS  
TEACH ME NOT TO RELY ON WHAT OTHERS DO  
BUT TO WAIT IN PRAYER FOR AN ANSWER FROM YOU

TEACH ME, LORD, TO WAIT WHILE HEARTS ARE AFLAME  
LET ME HUMBLE MY PRIDE AND CALL ON YOUR NAME  
KEEP MY FAITH RENEWED, MY EYES ON THEE  
LET ME BE ON THIS EARTH WHAT YOU WANT ME TO BE

THEY THAT WAIT UPON THE LORD SHALL RENEW THEIR STRENGTH  
THEY SHALL MOUNT UP WITH WINGS LIKE EAGLES  
THEY SHALL RUN AND NOT BE WEARY  
THEY SHALL WALK AND NOT FAINT  
TEACH ME LORD, TEACH ME LORD TO WAIT

## **Reading #3: He Will Come and Save You (song, white binder)**

Words & Music by Bob Fitts and Gary Sadler (1995)

*[unison throughout]*

SAY TO THOSE WHO ARE FEARFUL HEARTED, "DO NOT BE AFRAID"  
THE LORD YOUR GOD IS STRONG WITH HIS MIGHTY ARMS  
WHEN YOU CALL ON HIS NAME, HE WILL COME AND SAVE

*chorus*

HE WILL COME AND SAVE YOU, HE WILL COME AND SAVE YOU  
SAY TO THE WEARY ONE, "YOUR GOD WILL SURELY COME"

HE WILL COME AND SAVE YOU

HE WILL COME AND SAVE YOU, HE WILL COME AND SAVE YOU  
LIFT UP YOUR EYES TO HIM, YOU WILL ARISE AGAIN

HE WILL COME AND SAVE YOU

*(after 2<sup>nd</sup> verse + chorus, go to ending)*

SAY TO THOSE WHO ARE BROKEN HEARTED, "DO NOT LOSE YOUR FAITH"  
THE LORD YOUR GOD IS STRONG WITH HIS LOVING ARMS  
WHEN YOU CALL ON HIS NAME, HE WILL COME AND SAVE  
*(chorus, then ending)*

*ending*

LIFT UP YOUR EYES TO HIM, YOU WILL ARISE AGAIN  
HE WILL COME AND SAVE YOU

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# CONGREGATIONAL READINGS — January 10, 2021

## Reading #4: 1 John 4:7-21 (NRSV)

Leader / CONGREGATION

<sup>7</sup> *Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.* <sup>8</sup> **WHOEVER DOES NOT LOVE DOES NOT KNOW GOD, FOR GOD IS LOVE.** <sup>9</sup> *God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.*

<sup>10</sup> **IN THIS IS LOVE, NOT THAT WE LOVED GOD BUT THAT HE LOVED US AND SENT HIS SON TO BE THE ATONING SACRIFICE FOR OUR SINS.** <sup>11</sup> **BELOVED, SINCE GOD LOVED US SO MUCH, WE ALSO OUGHT TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER.** <sup>12</sup> **NO ONE HAS EVER SEEN GOD; IF WE LOVE ONE ANOTHER, GOD LIVES IN US, AND HIS LOVE IS PERFECTED IN US.**

<sup>13</sup> *By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.* <sup>14</sup> *And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world.* <sup>15</sup> **GOD ABIDES IN THOSE WHO CONFESS THAT JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD, AND THEY ABIDE IN GOD.** <sup>16</sup> *So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.*

**GOD IS LOVE, AND THOSE WHO ABIDE IN LOVE ABIDE IN GOD, AND GOD ABIDES IN THEM.** <sup>17</sup> *Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world.* <sup>18</sup> **THERE IS NO FEAR IN LOVE, BUT PERFECT LOVE CASTS OUT FEAR; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love.**

<sup>19</sup> **WE LOVE BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US.** <sup>20</sup> **THOSE WHO SAY, "I LOVE GOD," AND HATE THEIR BROTHERS OR SISTERS, ARE LIARS; FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT LOVE A BROTHER OR SISTER WHOM THEY HAVE SEEN, CANNOT LOVE GOD WHOM THEY HAVE NOT SEEN.** <sup>21</sup> **THE COMMANDMENT WE HAVE FROM HIM IS THIS: THOSE WHO LOVE GOD MUST LOVE THEIR BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALSO.**

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## Reading #5: 1 Corinthians 13 (ESV)

Leader / CONGREGATION

- <sup>1</sup> *If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.* <sup>2</sup> **AND IF I HAVE PROPHETIC POWERS, AND UNDERSTAND ALL MYSTERIES AND ALL KNOWLEDGE, AND IF I HAVE ALL FAITH, SO AS TO REMOVE MOUNTAINS, BUT HAVE NOT LOVE, I AM NOTHING.** <sup>3</sup> *if I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.*
- <sup>4</sup> **LOVE IS PATIENT AND KIND; LOVE DOES NOT ENVY OR BOAST; IT IS NOT ARROGANT<sup>5</sup> OR RUDE. IT DOES NOT INSIST ON ITS OWN WAY; IT IS NOT IRRITABLE OR RESENTFUL; <sup>6</sup> IT DOES NOT REJOICE AT WRONGDOING, BUT REJOICES WITH THE TRUTH. <sup>7</sup> LOVE BEARS ALL THINGS, BELIEVES ALL THINGS, HOPES ALL THINGS, ENDURES ALL THINGS.**
- <sup>8</sup> **LOVE NEVER ENDS.** *As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.* <sup>9</sup> **FOR WE KNOW IN PART AND WE PROPHECY IN PART, <sup>10</sup> BUT WHEN THE PERFECT COMES, THE PARTIAL WILL PASS AWAY.** <sup>11</sup> *When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways.* <sup>12</sup> **FOR NOW WE SEE IN A MIRROR DIMLY, BUT THEN FACE TO FACE. NOW I KNOW IN PART; THEN I SHALL KNOW FULLY, EVEN AS I HAVE BEEN FULLY KNOWN.**
- <sup>13</sup> *So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; BUT THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE.*

## Reading #6: Luke 3:21-22, 4:1-13 (NIV)

Leader / CONGREGATION

- <sup>3:21</sup> *When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. AND AS HE WAS PRAYING, HEAVEN WAS OPENED <sup>22</sup> AND THE HOLY SPIRIT DESCENDED ON HIM IN BODILY FORM LIKE A DOVE. AND A VOICE CAME FROM HEAVEN: “YOU ARE MY SON, WHOM I LOVE; WITH YOU I AM WELL PLEASED” ...*
- <sup>4:1</sup> *Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, <sup>2</sup> where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. HE ATE NOTHING DURING THOSE DAYS, AND AT THE END OF THEM HE WAS HUNGRY.*
- <sup>3</sup> *The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.”*
- <sup>4</sup> **JESUS ANSWERED, “IT IS WRITTEN: ‘MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE.’”**
- <sup>5</sup> *The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. <sup>6</sup> And he said to him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. <sup>7</sup> If you worship me, it will all be yours.”*
- <sup>8</sup> **JESUS ANSWERED, “IT IS WRITTEN: ‘WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD AND SERVE HIM ONLY.’”**
- <sup>9</sup> *The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down from here. <sup>10</sup> For it is written: ““He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; <sup>11</sup> they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.””*
- <sup>12</sup> **JESUS ANSWERED, “IT IS SAID: ‘DO NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.’”**
- <sup>13</sup> *When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.*

# CONGREGATIONAL READINGS — January 10, 2021

## Reading #7: Medley on the Lordship of Jesus (NIV)

Leader / CONGREGATION

[Matthew 27:35-37, 50-54]

<sup>35</sup> *When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots.* <sup>36</sup> *And sitting down, they kept watch over him there.* <sup>37</sup> **ABOVE HIS HEAD THEY PLACED THE WRITTEN CHARGE AGAINST HIM: THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS...**

<sup>50</sup> *And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.*

<sup>51</sup> **AT THAT MOMENT THE CURTAIN OF THE TEMPLE WAS TORN IN TWO FROM TOP TO BOTTOM. THE EARTH SHOOK, THE ROCKS SPLIT <sup>52</sup> AND THE TOMBS BROKE OPEN. THE BODIES OF MANY HOLY PEOPLE WHO HAD DIED WERE RAISED TO LIFE. <sup>53</sup> THEY CAME OUT OF THE TOMBS AFTER JESUS' RESURRECTION AND WENT INTO THE HOLY CITY AND APPEARED TO MANY PEOPLE.**

<sup>54</sup> *When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "SURELY HE WAS THE SON OF GOD!"*

[John 20:24-31]

<sup>24</sup> *Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came.* <sup>25</sup> *So the other disciples told him, "WE HAVE SEEN THE LORD!"*

*But he said to them, "UNLESS I SEE THE NAIL MARKS IN HIS HANDS AND PUT MY FINGER WHERE THE NAILS WERE, AND PUT MY HAND INTO HIS SIDE, I WILL NOT BELIEVE."*

<sup>26</sup> *A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "PEACE BE WITH YOU!"* <sup>27</sup> *Then he said to Thomas, "PUT YOUR FINGER HERE; SEE MY HANDS. REACH OUT YOUR HAND AND PUT IT INTO MY SIDE. STOP DOUBTING AND BELIEVE."*

<sup>28</sup> *Thomas said to him, "MY LORD AND MY GOD!"*

<sup>29</sup> *Then Jesus told him, "BECAUSE YOU HAVE SEEN ME, YOU HAVE BELIEVED; BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HAVE NOT SEEN AND YET HAVE BELIEVED."*

<sup>30</sup> *Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book.* <sup>31</sup> **BUT THESE ARE WRITTEN THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE MESSIAH, THE SON OF GOD, AND THAT BY BELIEVING YOU MAY HAVE LIFE IN HIS NAME.**

[Philippians 2:5-11]

<sup>5</sup> *In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:*

<sup>6</sup> **WHO, BEING IN VERY NATURE GOD, DID NOT CONSIDER EQUALITY WITH GOD SOMETHING TO BE USED TO HIS OWN ADVANTAGE; <sup>7</sup> RATHER, HE MADE HIMSELF NOTHING BY TAKING THE VERY NATURE OF A SERVANT, BEING MADE IN HUMAN LIKENESS. <sup>8</sup> AND BEING FOUND IN APPEARANCE AS A MAN, HE HUMBLING HIMSELF BY BECOMING OBEDIENT TO DEATH— EVEN DEATH ON A CROSS!**

<sup>9</sup> *Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,* <sup>10</sup> **THAT AT THE NAME OF JESUS EVERY KNEE SHOULD BOW, IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH AND UNDER THE EARTH, <sup>11</sup> AND EVERY TONGUE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT JESUS CHRIST IS LORD, TO THE GLORY OF GOD THE FATHER.**