

WELCOME TO  
*Contemplative Sunday*  
LAST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

YOU ARE INVITED TO QUIET YOUR HEART,  
REST YOUR SOUL, AND PREPARE IN SILENCE.

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

After the wisemen were gone, God's angel showed up again in Joseph's dream and commanded, "Get up. Take the child and his mother and flee to Egypt. Stay until further notice. Herod is on the hunt for this child and wants to kill him." Joseph obeyed. He got up, took the child and his mother under cover of darkness. They were out of town and well on their way by daylight. They lived in Egypt until Herod's death.

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

This Egyptian exile fulfilled what Hosea had preached: “I called my son out of Egypt.” Herod, when he realized that the scholars had tricked him, flew into a rage. He commanded the murder of every little boy two years old and under who lived in Bethlehem and its surrounding hills. (He determined that age from information he’d gotten from the scholars.)

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

That's when Jeremiah's revelation was fulfilled:

*A sound was heard in Ramah, weeping and much lament.  
Rachel weeping for her children, Rachel refusing all solace,  
Her children gone, dead and buried.*

Later, when Herod died, God's angel appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt: "Up, take the child and his mother and return to Israel. All those out to murder the child are dead."



Just for a moment, allow yourself to imagine you are a refugee, that you have fled everything that you have ever known, and are facing a new reality that holds no certainty of safety. What feelings arise in you?

## Our Real Work

It may be that when we no longer know what to do,  
we have come to our real work.

And when we no longer know which way to go,  
we have begun our real journey.

The mind that is not baffled is not employed.

The impeded stream is the one that sings.

— Wendell Berry

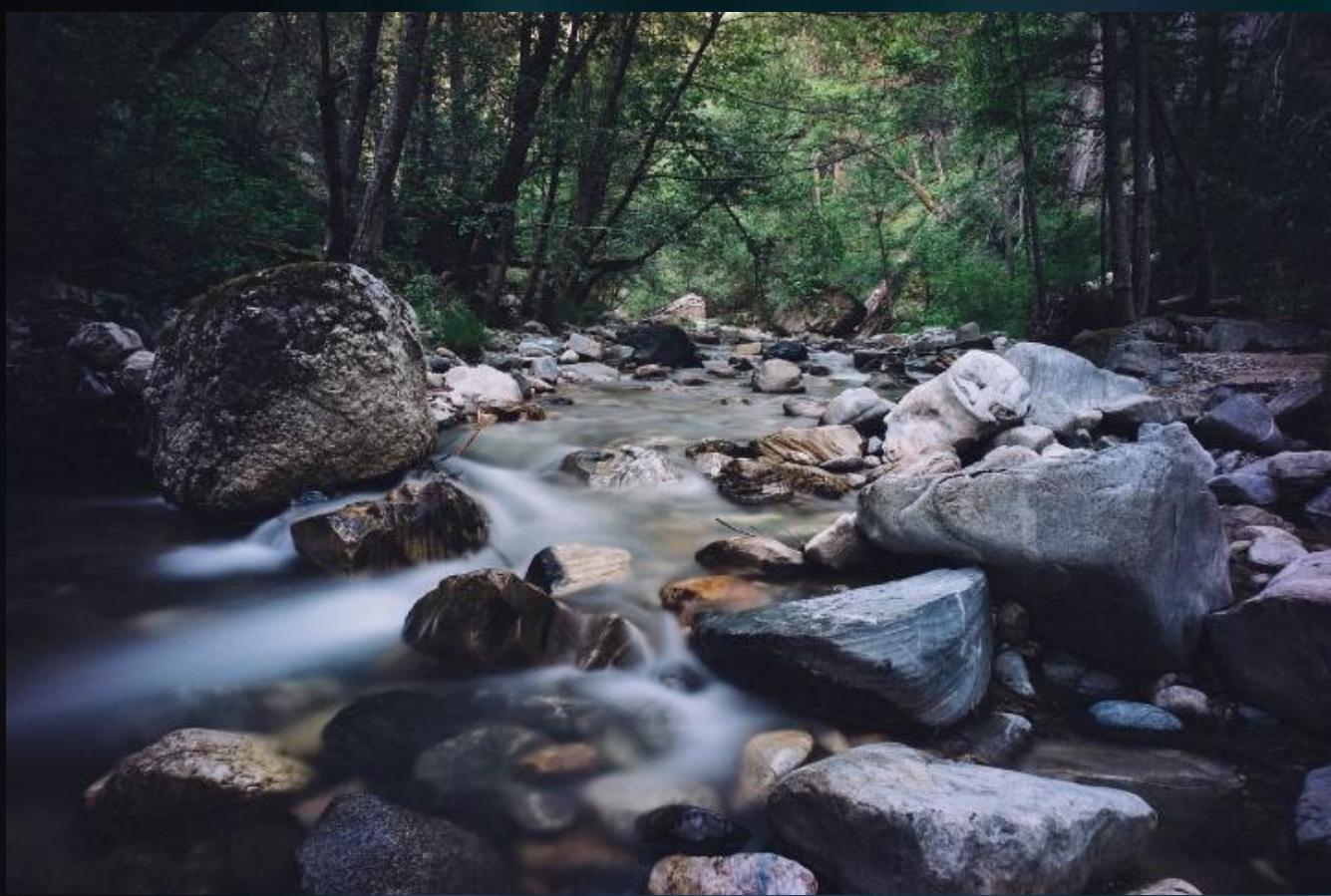
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What do these verses stir in your heart?





Can you name your fears? Perhaps lack of control, lack of power, lack of resources, or something else? When you feel fear, where does your fear lead you? Can you imagine using your fear to motivate you to stand for justice, personally or on behalf of others? What might that look like? What song arises in you in response to life's impediments?



## The Peace of Wild Things

When despair for the world grows in me and I wake  
in the night at the least sound in fear of what my life  
and my children's lives may be, I go and lie down  
where the wood drake rests in his beauty on the  
water, and the great heron feeds. I come into the  
peace of wild things who do not tax their lives with  
forethought of grief. I come into the presence of still  
water. And I feel above me the day-blind stars  
waiting with their light. For a time I rest in the grace  
of the world  
and am free.

— Wendell Berry

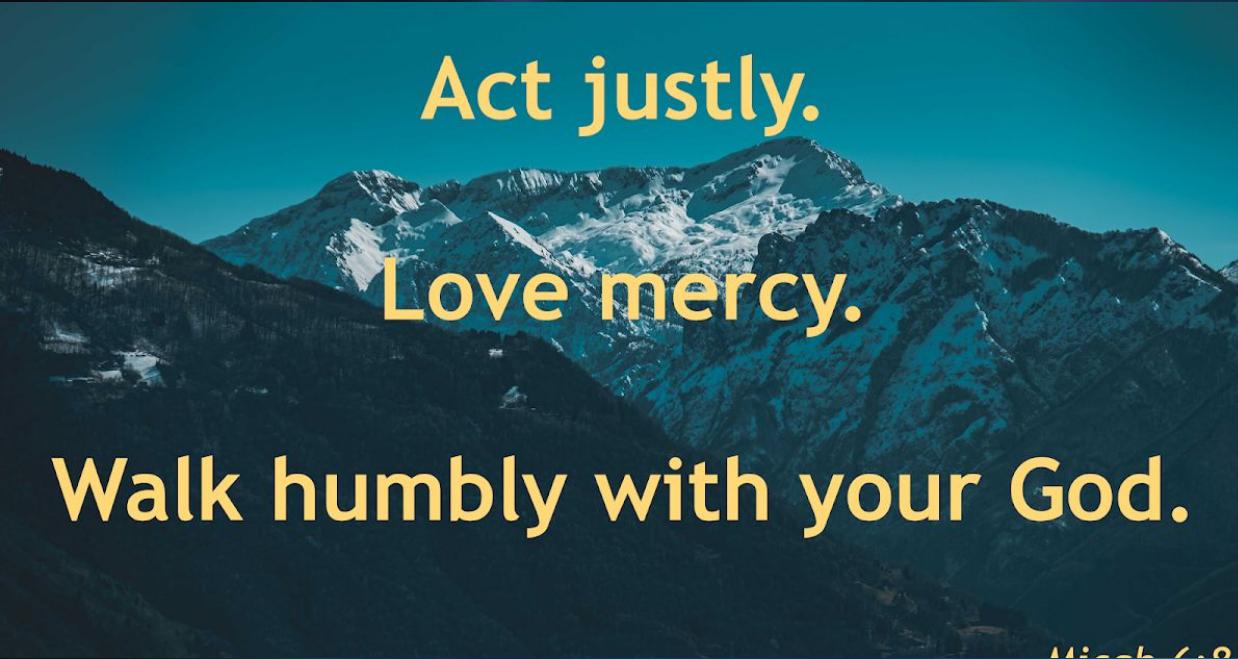
God has shown you, O mortal, what is good.

And what does the Lord require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy and

to walk humbly with your God.

-Micah 6:8



Act justly.

Love mercy.

Walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:8

