

WELCOME TO

Contemplative Sunday

LAST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

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

Archetype*: a model of a person who stands as a symbol of a collection of traits. A recurring character type that appears in literature, history, myth, religion, etc. Many archetypes appear throughout the biblical writings.

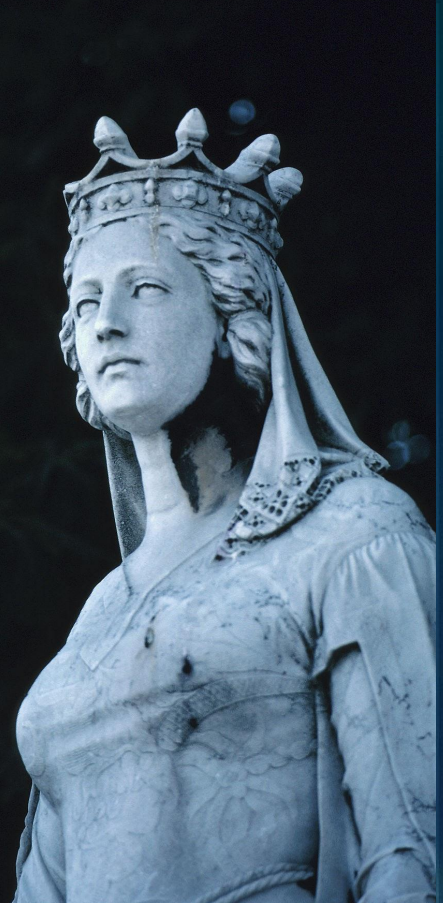
**Rooted in the work of psychiatrist Carl Jung, who believed that every culture or belief system has common archetypes that everyone could relate to and are part of our innate human psyche.*



Opening reflection:

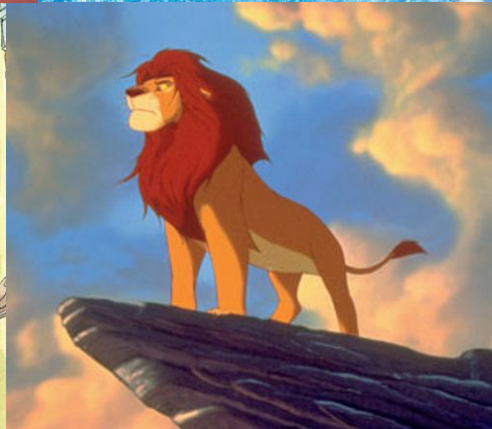
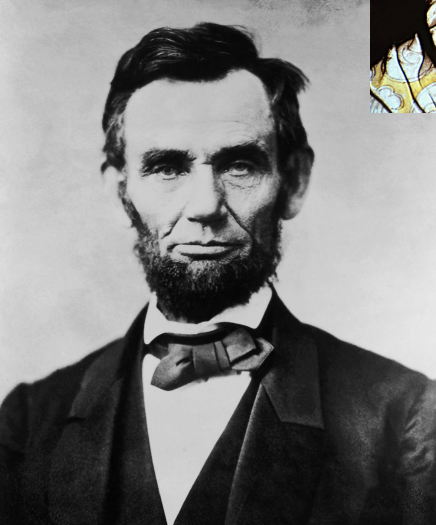
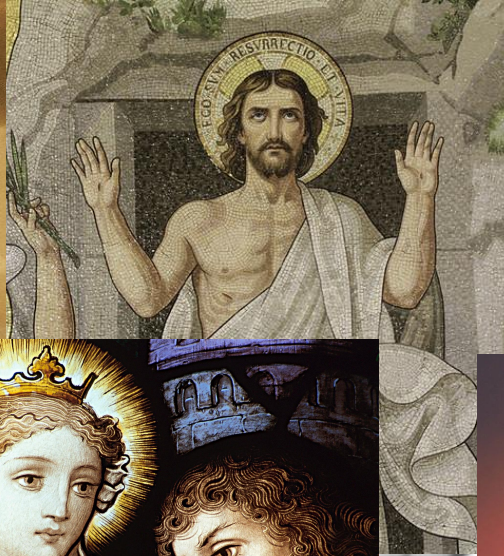
What is a queen/king?

*When you hear these terms,
what do you envision? What
images, feelings, or
memories come to mind?*



What we are *not* exactly talking about here is...





“When I think about kings/queens I think about lovers, imagining a world where flourishing is the *status quo*, where we are living in the ways we are most meant to...there is a sense of knowing you are made for love and knowing there is a way you can create a world where love flourishes, where there’s a mutual giving and receiving of pleasure, where justice and mercy reign supreme...on behalf of all.”

–Rachel Clinton Chen, on the King/Queen biblical archetype

from Psalm 72 (NIV)

Of Solomon.

Endow the king with your justice, O God,
the royal son with your righteousness.
May he judge your people in righteousness,
your afflicted ones with justice.

May the mountains bring prosperity to the people,
the hills the fruit of righteousness.
May he defend the afflicted among the people
and save the children of the needy;
may he crush the oppressor...

from Psalm 72 (NIV) cont.

**...May he be like rain falling on a mown field,
like showers watering the earth.
In his days may the righteous flourish
and prosperity abound till the moon is no more...**

**...For he will deliver the needy who cry out,
the afflicted who have no one to help.
He will take pity on the weak and the needy
and save the needy from death.
He will rescue them from oppression and violence,
for precious is their blood in his sight.**

Take a few minutes to sit with this excerpt from Psalm 72. Read through it slowly, line by line. What stands out to you? What kind of picture of a kingdom begins to emerge for you?

What is the relationship of the king to those who have little authority or power here? How does a good and just king/queen engage with the poor and vulnerable?



“The hands of the king are the hands of a healer, and so shall the rightful king be known...”

– *The Return of the King* (book three of *The Lord of the Rings*)

Image source: Fans of Middle Earth Facebook page

How can the authority or influence of a king/queen be wielded for the sake of healing? Can you recall any examples of this – perhaps from history, or even in your life?

If the rightful king/queen will be known by their healing, who are the healing-oriented leaders, past or present, that we can look to for guidance?

Matthew 20:20-28 (NIV)

Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of (Jesus).

"What is it you want?" he asked.

She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom."

"You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?"

"We can," they answered...

Jesus said to them, “You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father.”

When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave — just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

In what ways does your heart crave greatness, meaning, significance? How has God changed or expanded your understanding of true greatness and significance throughout your life?

Think about the ways in which you have the capacity to step into a queen/king role. What service or blessing do you desire to offer those within your sphere of influence?

Communion Sunday

ALL ARE INVITED AND WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE

“We’re building a structure that allows for flourishing, mutuality, voices to be at the table, which also allows for significant parts of the leadership community to be filled by prophets, priests, and other kings and queens, and allow the fullness of the table to be set so we can all move together for the glory of God and be able to honor what we bring to the table – not diminish it, not decrease it, because it is collective, it’s a community.”

–Cathy Loerzel, on the King/Queen biblical archetype



The word became flesh so as to wash my tired feet...(Jesus) kneels and takes my feet in his hands and washes them. Then he looks up at me and, as his eyes and mine meet, he says: “Do you understand what I have done for you? *If I, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet, you must wash your brothers’ and sisters’ feet.*”

– Henri Nouwen

Image source: “Jesus washing Peter's feet”
by Jim Forest, CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

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If you'd like to use a different color for emphasis, use "Light Yellow 2" (or bold/underline the white).

Bolding your emphasis color will work even better.

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The Queen/King Archetype



“The weight is intense. And it needs to be intense because what you’re called to manage is public, typically it has a lot of consequence, and you’re asked to make very difficult decisions that are not necessarily going to be popular, but they are the wisest decision that you could make in the moment. And when you do make them, you also need to be the first to own your failure. So there is a tremendous amount of weight that comes from this station of being a king or a queen.”

–Cathy Loerzel, on the King/Queen biblical archetype