

Collegiate Presbyterian Church

Reading Guide for Lenten readings from *Bread and Wine*

Week 1 - March 20 – Invitation

<u>Suggested Readings</u>	<u>Guiding Questions</u>
2 – Repent – Willimon	How is repentance an “invitation”? What does it mean for us to die, to consider ourselves dead? (pp. 8-9)
15 – Living Lent - Crafton	What might the author be inviting us to do? In what ways is this a conviction of a Western lifestyle?
19 – A Look Inside – Hong	Do you agree with the author that the purpose of Lent is “to arouse” our guilt and that guilt is necessary for contrition and forgiveness? Why or why not.
36 – the Royal Road - a Kempis -	What does the author mean when he writes “Why then, do you fear to take up the cross when through it you can win the kingdom? There is no salvation or hope of everlasting life but in the cross?”
55 – Followers, Not Admirers - Kierkegaard	The distinction between an admirer and a follower of Christ is interesting. How might you flesh out the difference today? Describe what each might look like.
	What does this section teach us about repentance?

Week 2 – March 27 – Temptation

<u>Suggested Readings</u>	<u>Guiding Questions</u>
70 – Keeping Watch – Berrigan	Why is this essay included in a chapter on temptation?
76 – The Common Criminal – Rutledge	How do you experience “the depth of your own participation in sin?” How can you relate to Sally’s shame?
88 – Truth to Tell - Taylor	Has anyone ever told you the truth about yourself so clearly that you wanted to “kill them?” What do you make of such a description of Christ?
112 – Sheath Your Sword –	Dear’s call is to a life of total non-violence How can we as citizens of the USA

Dear	<p>respond to Dear?</p> <p>Can one be totally non-violent in this world?</p> <p>Do you buy Dear's claim that Peter was more interested in saving himself than in saving Jesus?</p>
	<p>What does this section teach us about temptation?</p>

Week 3 – April 3 – Passion

<u>Suggested Readings</u>	<u>Guiding Questions</u>
156 – Shared Hells – Kreeft	<p>What does “the solution to our suffering is our suffering” mean?</p>
162 – For the Sacrificed – Hammar skjold	<p>Must Jesus have been innocent for his death to have significance?</p> <p>Have you ever experienced faith in the face of sacrifice that, to all outward appearances, was futile?</p>
165 – God the Rebel – Chesterton	<p>Comment on the author's assertion that “God went through agony and doubt.”</p> <p>What do you think about “God seemed for an instant to be an atheist?”</p>
175 – On This Gallows – Soelle	<p>How do you respond to the incident that happened at Auschwitz?</p> <p>What does it mean to you that God is hanging “here on this gallows”?</p>
179 – From Action to Passion – Nouwen	<p>When have you experienced the love of God?</p> <p>How has God shown through in your activity?</p> <p>How has God shown through in your being acted upon?</p>
	<p>What does this section teach us about the passion?</p>

Week 4 — April 10 – Crucifixion

<u>Suggested Readings</u>	<u>Guiding Questions</u>
36 – The Crucifix -- Howard	<p>What is the role of the crucifix and the crucifixion for Protestants?</p> <p>For Presbyterians in particular?</p> <p>How much should we dwell on the suffering of Christ?</p>
37 – The Cross and the Cellar	<p>Is evil usually banal?</p>

– Kelsey	<p>Do we identify with Pilate / Caiaphas / Judas / the crossmaker?</p> <p>What does the crucifixion have to say to “the civilized vices of cowardice, bigotry, impatience, timidity, falsehood, indifference” (p. 212)?</p>
39 – Naked Pride – Stott	<p>Is Stott right that we find God’s death on the cross troubling because it humiliates our pride not to be able to save ourselves?</p> <p>Or is there something else that troubles us? If so, what?</p>
40 – Signature of Jesus – Manning	<p>As Presbyterians, do we believe in the “power of a great affection” (pp. 224, 226)? Or in being “born again”? Or something else...?</p> <p>Does the “signature of Jesus” (“I have served my sentence,” p. 228) convince the rest of the world? Why/why not?</p>
46 – Cosmic Cross – Tillich	<p>What’s the role of nature in the crucifixion?</p>
	<p>What does this section teach us about the crucifixion?</p>

Week 5 — April 17 – Resurrection

<u>Suggested Readings</u>	<u>Guiding Questions</u>
Seven Stanzas – Updike	Choose a line that speaks to you....why?
48 – Merry Easter? – Mathewes-Green	How should Christians celebrate Easter? What is it possible for children to understand of Easter? How do Christian parents get beyond bunnies and candy?
53 – Greatest Drama – Sayers	What do you think about: “We have very efficiently pared the claws of the Lion of Judah, certified him ‘meek and mild,’ and recommended him as a fitting household pet for pale curates and pious old ladies” (p. 294). What would a Lion of Judah have to do with our faith today? With the world in general?
56 – Waiting for Judas – L’Engle	Is Jesus’ love “too good to believe,” “transcending the erotic love of man and woman” and “too strong for many of us to accept” (pp. 311-312)? If so, why?
57 – Mystery of the Poor – Day	How do we see Christ in one another? How do we learn to do it?
	What does this section teach us about resurrection?