



WHAT IS GOD UP TO IN ALL “THIS?”

Radix Plenary
Saint Mark's Cathedral
January 24, 2021

RADIX PROJECT—SMALL GROUPS/DEEP ROOTS



- Modeled by Jesus who met with others in small, intimate groups
- Modeled by the early Church in homes where they gathered, prayed, and cared for one another
- A way to know one another, and to be known
- A way to situate our stories in the context of God's story
 - We believe God is up to something here and now
- Small groups serve as substrate for spiritual transformation
- Especially important in this time



ATTENDING TO A FEW DETAILS...

- Groups of 6-8 people—prioritize this in your life
- All groups will meet six times, late January to March (through Lent)
- All groups will meet via Zoom virtual platform (we will assist)
- Some were in earlier Radix iterations; others are joining now—this is ideal
- Art pieces offered as companions to the text and group conversation

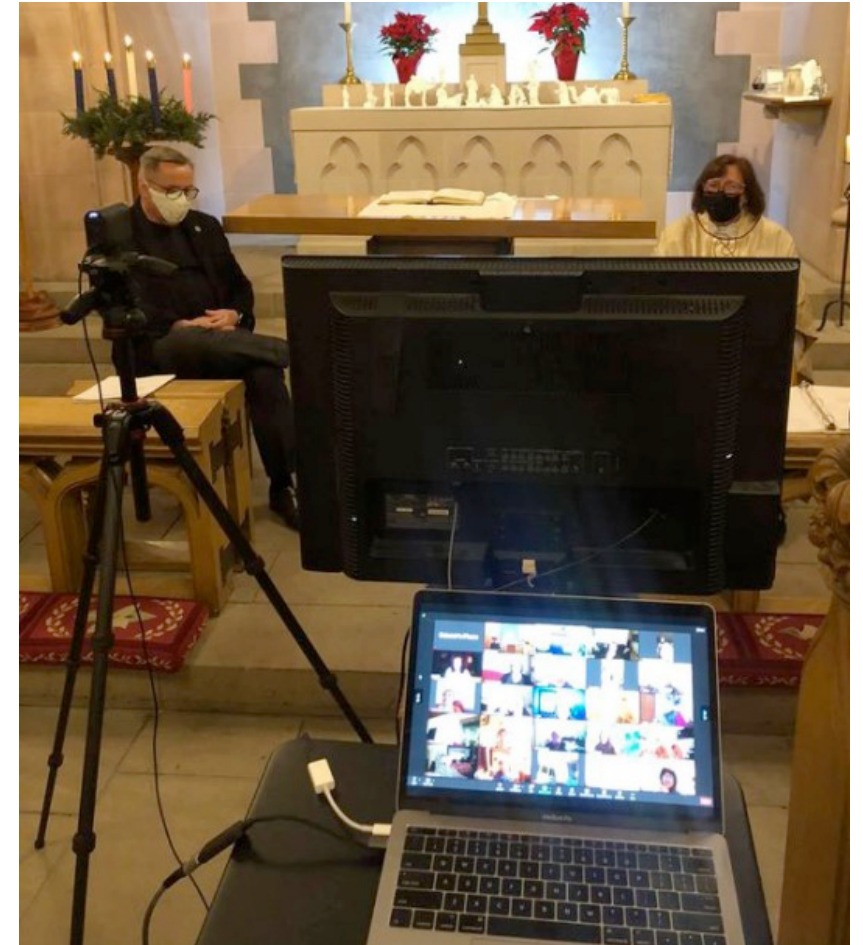
FLOW OF EACH MEETING (A GUIDE)

- Gathering Time, opening prayer ~5 min
- Check-in ~10 min
- Scripture Reflection ~25 min
- Group Discussion ~30 min
- Check-out including Prayer Requests ~10 min
- Closing Prayer/Worship ~10 min



GROUP NORMS TO CONSIDER IN YOUR GROUP

- Confidentiality
- Mutual Respect and Active Listening
- Technology and other logistics
- Courtesy of arriving on time and ending on time
- Commitment to pray for each other
- Other Norms? (Zoom etiquette, etc.)





BREAKOUT GROUPS

- Brief introduction—name, and share:
- One thing I have lost during pandemic is _____.
- One thing I have gained during pandemic is _____.



STORIES OF SALVATION



EASTER VIGIL

- Four Parts:
 1. The Service of Light
 2. The Service of Lessons
 3. Christian Initiation (Renewal of BC)
 4. The Holy Eucharist/First Communion of Easter





WHY DO WE READ SCRIPTURES?

- Read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them...
- “contain all things necessary for salvation...”
- They speak into our lives today, offering wisdom, grace, courage, truth...
- Humanity has been here before...
 - Culturally situated, sometimes problematic
- God is relentlessly yearning for the covenantal relationship with us

THE SERVICE OF LESSONS—AKA GOD'S SALVATION HISTORY

- “Let us hear the record of God’s saving deeds in history, how God saved the people in ages past; and let us pray that our God will bring each of us to the fullness of redemption.”
 - Creation (goodness)
 - Flood (covenant)
 - Akedah (binding of Isaac)—reckoned to him as “righteousness” (orientation)
 - Exodus (deliverance)
 - Isaiah 55 (plenteous redemption, freely offered for all)—Restoration from Exile
 - Ezekiel Valley of Dry Bones (embodied with Spirit of God)
- Read literally, dried ink on the page
- A layered reading with spiritual nuance—gush up with eternal truth and life

SALVATION

- Not specifically a Christian term
 - All religions posit a benefit to its adherents
- Root word: salvus—healing balm
 - Who/What is in need of being healed?
 - Who offers the healing balm needed?
 - When did/does healing occur?
 - What is the problem needing healing? (sin, death, alienation/disharmony, suffering, evil, ignorance, injustice...)
- A range of images and themes in scripture
 - Theosis/divinization—made in God's image, new creation, authentic human existence
 - Redemption—literally, purchase out of bondage/slavery (liberation, freedom)
 - Adoption into family as beloved
 - Justification (by faith)—righteous in the sight of God
 - Sacrifice (of praise and thanksgiving)—"make holy"—Eucharistic people
 - Saving help...
- Communal/creation themes (we are all in this together)—individual salvation is a rather modern phenomenon
- Our experience of redemption/salvation is embedded in the things that cause us anxiety (lack of control, common humanity, prayer comes more naturally in those moments...)

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- A layered reading with spiritual nuance—gush up with eternal truth and life
- Note that these are Hebrew scriptures (pre-date Jesus Christ)—God up to something in all “this”
- Their prophetic brilliance shines through into times such as this.



PSALM 30:6

- Weeping may spend the night, but joy comes in the morning.



BREAKOUT GROUPS



- What are some ways that you've experienced God in the midst of hardship, in the midst of all "this?" (if not explicitly your experience, think thematically along lines of the scriptures—goodness, healing, restoration, renewal of relationship, spiritual closeness...
- How are grief and healing connected in the Scriptures?
- How are grief and healing connected in your life?



REGATHER IN PLENARY