

06-02-24 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

“Jesus’s conflict with the Pharisees reminds us that we serve a Lord who calls us to prioritize meeting human needs... We serve a Lord who acts with compassion, even when it breaks the rules... Indeed, we serve the Lord of the Sabbath, a God who invites us to a grace-filled rhythm of life.”

- *Ellen Williams Hensle*



Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 † Mark 2:23-3:6

Questions for Reflection —

- How does it make you feel that you are known by God—in all aspects of your life and with all your strengths and weaknesses? What will help you better recognize God's accompanying presence in all circumstances? What does it mean for you to know that you are fearfully and wonderfully made? How does being in relationship with God aid your self-examination and self-reflection, enabling you to better understand who you are—what you were created to be and do?

- How easily are you able to perceive that every human being has been wonderfully made? What would it look like for you to treat each person you encounter as deserving compassion, care, and respect? Under what circumstance(s) might you find it difficult? Have you ever had to break any “rules” (including going against societal conventions or traditions) for the sake of meeting the needs of another person? How can we as a congregation affirm the dignity, value, and worth of each person served by our programs and ministries? What “rules” might we need to break in order to do so?

- What is the balance in your life between work and rest? What does keeping Sabbath look like for you? What Sabbath practices are most important and meaningful to you? Is it a priority for you to engage those practices? Why or why not? What are the cultural/societal barriers to keeping Sabbath? What can we as a congregation do to help make Sabbath-keeping possible for other people?

Daily Household Prayer

Govern all by thy wisdom, O Lord, so that my soul may always be serving thee as thou dost will, and not as I may choose. Do not punish me, I beseech thee, by granting that which I wish or ask, if it offend thy love, which would always live in me. Let me die to myself, that I may serve thee; let me live to thee, who in thyself art the true life. Amen.