

## Introduction

Check-in & Introductions

## God at Work

## Old Testament Lesson

1 Chronicles 17:1-15 (NRSV)

<sup>1</sup> Now when David settled in his house, David said to the prophet Nathan, "I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of the covenant of the LORD is under a tent." <sup>2</sup> Nathan said to David, "Do all that you have in mind, for God is with you."

<sup>3</sup> But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying: <sup>4</sup> Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: You shall not build me a house to live in. <sup>5</sup> For I have not lived in a house since the day I brought out Israel to this very day, but I have lived in a tent and a tabernacle. <sup>6</sup> Wherever I have moved about among all Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people, saying, Why have you not built me a house of cedar? <sup>7</sup> Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be ruler over my people Israel; <sup>8</sup> and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies before you; and I will make for you a name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>9</sup> I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall wear them down no more, as they did formerly, <sup>10</sup> from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will subdue all your enemies.

Moreover I declare to you that the LORD will build you a house. <sup>11</sup> When your days are fulfilled to go to be with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, one of your own sons, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>12</sup> He shall build a house for me, and I will establish his throne forever. <sup>13</sup> I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. I will not take my steadfast love from him, as I took it from him who was before you, <sup>14</sup> but I will confirm him in my house and in my kingdom forever, and his throne shall be established forever. <sup>15</sup> In accordance with all these words and all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

## Sermon Focus

When we pray the Lord's Prayer one of the things we pray together is, "Thy Kingdom come." This is the first week of a sermon series where we will ask the questions what do we mean when we pray for God's "Kingdom" to come in the Lord's Prayer? What is God's Kingdom? Why do some say "Kin-dom" instead?

This week's sermon acknowledged that the Kingdom is being built by God, not by us alone. We are called to be a part of that building of the Kingdom, of the "home." Like Shiphrah and Puah in Exodus, it means that we are called to do Kingdom work. We allow God to build through us as coworkers and celebrants of the work God is doing. God's work is to create a community, a family, a true "Kin-dom" that is embodied most fully at the table of Holy Communion.

Theologian and scholar, Ada Maria Isasi-Diaz, was the first to introduce the word “Kin-dom.” If the Kingdom of God has something to do with “home” and has everything to do with the reign of God in our midst (and the one that is coming). This term, “Kin-dom” has much to offer us.

We as people of faith, have been walking on a path, toward the ultimate reign of God. We, like the saints that have walked before us, have prayed the same Lord’s Prayer, and done our part at making that house a home, witnessing to what God is doing among us. Like the confirmation class of 2020 at Manchester UMC, we know that the work is not done. We witness the generations who’ve walked before us, and those still to come. We walk faithfully toward that eschatological promise, toward the table of God, where all will sit as kin.

## Discussion Questions

1. What does the word “home” mean to you?
2. What does it mean to “get out of the way of God’s work?”
3. Share a story of a “saint” that you knew, who helped form your faith.
4. The term “Kin-dom” points to the idea that we are “kin.” What is wonderful about that? What is difficult about that?

## Prayer

God of generations, work through us. Let us hear the voices of the saints who walked before us. God, we pray for the confirmation class of 2020. Inspire and guide us to assist these new members, to support their faith and their calling to be kin-dom builders with you. Fill us with your hopeful promise of the table filled with abundance and all of your children. Help us to make that a reality here and now. Amen.

*When we allow God to work through us, when we obey God’s desires ahead of our own, when we prioritize God ahead of “the world,” ahead of any partisan agenda, ahead of preconceived notions, prejudiced perspectives, our own limited and fallible biases ... when we let God do the liberating work of grace, the house gets built. When we let God work, God creates “home.”*