

# FAITH @ HOME

Week of June 14, 2020

Second Sunday after Pentecost

## ADULT AND ELEMENTARY

**READ:** Genesis 18:1-15

**REFLECT:** What are some things that make you laugh? I used to like the nursery rhyme that ended with, “and the dish ran away with the spoon.” Picturing a dish and a spoon running away together makes me laugh so hard!

In this reading, Sarah heard news that was so unbelievable that she can’t do anything but laugh! Elsewhere in the Bible, it says, “a cheerful heart is a good medicine” (Proverbs 17:22 NRSV). Laughter is vitally important. God helps us to be cheerful and provides us with many things about which we can laugh.

**RESPOND:** Take a walk outside and look around you. What colors do you see? What scents do you smell? Did anything in nature make you laugh? Nature is one of the things God provided to keep us cheerful.

## ABOUT OUR CONTRIBUTOR: IMANI DRISKELL



Imani Driskell is the Director of Children’s, Youth, and Family Ministries at St. Michael’s-in-the-Hills Episcopal Church in Toledo, Ohio. Imani was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York and is a bagel and pizza enthusiast. She enjoys learning, teaching and speaking about Faith Formation. Her favorite novel is *The Living is Easy* by Dorothy West.

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## ADULT AND YOUTH

**READ:** Matthew 9:35-10:23

**REFLECT:** Telling someone about something they don't care about or don't want to hear isn't always easy. Sometimes, they end up being really interested. Sometimes, they roll their eyes at you. Jesus sent the disciples to reach out to the "lost sheep of Israel," the ones who had been rejected and sent away by the shepherds and flock for various reasons. Some of them, when they heard about the amazing things Jesus was doing and preaching, were excited. Others worried that the message wasn't for them or had been so burned by others, that they didn't want to receive the message. This can happen any time we try to speak truth or justice to our community or the world.

One of my favorite lines from this is when Jesus tells the disciples to "shake off the dust from your feet" when they are not received by a household or community. (Matthew 10:14, NRSV) This, historically, was a kind of curse placed upon that group, as is referenced later about judgement being worse there than in Sodom and Gomorrah, but it is also a good message in the face of resistance. When you speak truth and justice but are met with anger and dismissal, shake the dust off your feet and keep walking.

**RESPOND:** Check in with your friends this week. See if they have picked up a new hobby or interest this summer or share one with them.

## ABOUT OUR CONTRIBUTOR: MAGGIE PAUL



Maggie Paul is the Assistant Director for Youth and Family Ministry at Christ Episcopal Church in Charlotte, NC where she focuses on Middle School and relational ministry as well as curriculum. She previously served at the Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta, GA where she developed and implemented a comprehensive Confirmation curriculum. She is very excited to bring aspects of this curriculum to her new parish. As an undergraduate with a passion for youth ministry, she served as a summer camp counselor and Episcopal student center "church mouse," and she continues to use her gifts and talents as a singer and musician to nurture her own journey and inspire others on theirs.

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## ADULT AND ADULT

**READ:** Matthew 9:35-10:23

**REFLECT:** The first time I ever went to an Episcopal church was when I was a senior in college and my friends invited me to join them. For someone who was raised as a Southern Baptist, I was completely outside of my comfort zone and I experienced a lot of newness in that hour. I will never forget that service, and I'll never forget the sermon from that morning, either.

The preacher opened with a quote: "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." I was struck by the power and point of that statement, especially regarding the way that we followers of Jesus are to live in the world.

This quote is very applicable to the story in the Gospel of Matthew, in which Jesus called the Twelve and sent them out. Even as God, Jesus didn't work alone, but called together a group to be his closest co-workers in his work proclaiming and ushering in the Reign of God. As we work to proclaim truth and minister justice in our own lives, may we follow the example of Jesus, to go far and go together.

**RESPOND:** This week, reach out to those people who are your "co-workers" in Christ. Share your gratitude with them and consider how you might continue to go together into the world for Christ.

## ABOUT OUR CONTRIBUTOR: CLAYTON HARRINGTON



Clayton Harrington is the Episcopal Campus Missioner at the University of Georgia. He is also the Rector's Associate for Youth and Young Adult Ministries at Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Athens, Georgia. In these roles, Clayton is passionate about the potential of Christian community, worship, and service to empower youth and young adults to grow into the people that God has made them to be. Clayton is a transitional deacon and will be ordained a priest in June 2020 in the Diocese of Atlanta.

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