



Noticing & Naming God's Presence

Women's Ministry Kick-off



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Moving through the evening

*Feel free to have conversations
while you are in the Chapel,
but as you walk through the
gallery, we ask that you move
through contemplatively and
quietly as you reflect and
observe.*

Schedule for the evening

Dinner

Theme for the year

Notice & Name God's Presence

Discussion

Nature



A River in a Meadow
Théodore Rousseau French
ca. 1840

Nature reflection questions

- What aspects of creation inspire the most awe in you, and why?
- When you observe nature, what does it tell you about God?
- How does the immensity of the cosmos – from galaxies to subatomic particles – affect your understanding of your own significance in God’s plan for our world?
- How does acknowledging creation and the Creator influence your interactions with other people?

For Further Reflection: “How Can You Not See God”, Leanna Crawford



Verses to reference: Gen. 1:1-2, Psalm 19:1-4, Rom 1: 19-20, Rev 21:1-4

Prayer/Meditation on Scripture



Prayer Before the Meal

Jan Steen(Leiden 1626 – 1679 Leiden)

ca. 1660

Prayer/Meditation Questions

- How have you experienced God in your prayer life...recently? Or in the past?
- What comes to mind when you think of prayer? What emotions arise?
- Is there a story of God at work that comes to mind?

Work



The Gleaners (Des glaneuses)
Jean-François Millet
ca. 1857

Work Questions

- How does your work (paid or unpaid) cause you to depend on God?
- What aspects of your work make it more difficult to see him working?
- Is there a story of “God at work” related to your daily responsibilities, vocation, or, perhaps, search for meaningful work?

Community



Candle Vendors
Vicente Manansala
ca. 1976

Community reflection questions

- How did you experience God's presence today? With a friend/colleague? With a stranger?
- Who could use God's love today?
- What helps me pay attention to God? What hinders me from paying attention to God?

Family



The Mothers (Die Mütter)
Käthe Kollwitz
ca. 1922–1923

Family reflection questions

- What comes up for you when you think about God's presence and work in your family? (Either current family or family of origin?)
- In what ways would you like God to redeem current or past hurts in your family relationships?
- What would it look like to trust God's work for particular family members?

For Further Reflection: Acts 10:2, Proverbs 14:1, 1 Timothy 5:8

Art/Music



Self-Portrait at the Easel
William Doriani
ca. 1933

Art/Music Questions

- What kind of art gives you great joy?
- Even if you don't consider yourself to be "artistic," what are areas of your life that you find pleasure in creativity? (For example, cooking, gardening, hospitality, and journaling could all be areas of creativity. Keep thinking!)
- As you look at art on the tables (or consider art or music that you love) read through these questions (from Every Moment Holy) and pause to consider a few of them: What does it draw out of me? What joy? What longing? What fears? What temptation? What hope? What mirth? What love of beauty? What awe? What wonder? What doubt? What faith? What resolve? What unfinished grief? What unintended wound?

For Further Reflection: Psalm 150 (Music), Isaiah 64:8 (Art)

*"Art is a reflection of God's creativity, an evidence
that we are made in the image of God."*

Francis Schaeffer

Freedom & Victory from Sin



The Return of the Prodigal Son
Rembrandt
ca. 1661–1669

Freedom & Victory from Sin Questions

- What comes up for you when you consider the phrase “Freedom from sin?”
- Where do you need God’s help in seeing his redemption in your life?
In what areas could you listen to the Holy Spirit’s reminder of God’s love and forgiveness?
- Is there a story of “God at work” that comes to mind?



Kirk of the Hills