

March 1, 2020

“Wrestling with Courage”

Reading: Esther

Hosted by: Parish Care

Teacher: Rev. Michael Livingston & Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper

Schedule

9:30am - Welcome, Opening Prayer and Song

9:35-9:50am - Teaching

9:50-10:20am - Small Group Sharing/Discussion

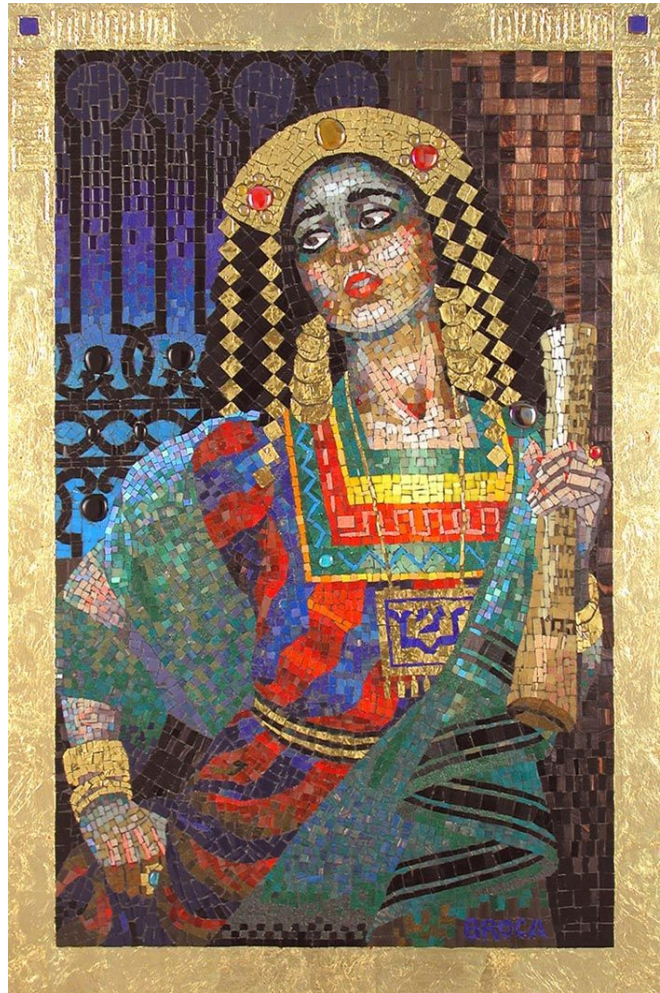
10:20-10:30am - Brief Large Group Sharing/Discussion

10:30am - Closing Prayer and song

Today's Reading: Esther

This book tells the story of Esther, a Jewish orphan who rose to become Queen of the Persian Empire, and Ahasuerus (Xeres), King of Persia. At the time (5th century BCE), the Persian Empire included the lands of the Israelites. Decades before, the Israelites, now known as Jews, were exiled from their homeland and dispersed throughout the Babylonian Empire, the precursor to the Persian Empire. The story portrays Ahasuerus as a not very bright ruler with a very big ego who surrounds himself with corrupt, sycophantic ministers.

- [Esther 1:1-22](#) – Ahasuerus deposes his Vashti, his Queen, and imposes patriarchal laws over the Persian Empire.
- [Esther 2:1-18](#) – How Esther, a Jew, becomes Queen of Persia.
- [Esther 2:19-3:15](#) – Esther's cousin and adopted father, Mordecai, whistleblows on an assassination plot against the king and disses Haman, the antisemite the king just promoted to prime minister.
- [Esther 4:1-17](#) – Upon Mordecai's petition, Esther agrees to use her position to try to save her people, the Jews, from the genocidal slaughter planned by Haman.
- [Esther 5:1-6:13](#) – Esther accepts Mordecai's challenge and leverages her favor with the king to plan a banquet at which she will somehow reveal Haman's evil and save her people, the Jews. Meanwhile, the king inadvertently discovers that the that assassination plot's whistleblower was Mordecai, a Jew.
- [Esther 6:14-8:17](#) – Esther undoes Haman and saves her people, the Jews.
- [Esther 9:1-10:3](#) – The enemies of the Jews are slaughtered and the Feast of Purim is inaugurated.



For weekly discussion questions, to take our survey (let us know how you like Wrestling With God!) and lessons each week go to:

trcnyc.org/wrestlingwithGod

Upcoming

MARCH 8 - WRESTLING WITH UNITY

Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-16

Teacher: Worship Commission

This lesson we will use Lectio Divina to reflect and study scripture

Registration is Now Open For Winter/Spring 2020 Small Group Classes!



Classes Start March 15

Register at trcnyc.org/smallgroups

Open Bible Study

Sundays | 9:30-10:30am | MLK330

This class looks at the weekly lectionary texts in an open dialogue format.

The Earth, The City, and the Hidden Narrative of Race

Facilitators: Rev. Dr. Alan Bentz-Letts

9am to 10:30 am | 4/26/2020-6/14/2020 | Room 316 MLK

This memoir by African-American architect Carl Anthony tells the story of his growing up in Philadelphia, education at Columbia, trip to West Africa, and career assignments with the Urban Habitat Program, Ford Foundation and "Breakthrough Communities." Throughout Anthony broadens the role of the architect to include not only built structures, but also physical and spiritual survival, and equality and justice.

Parent Connect

Facilitated by Amanda Meisenheimer

9:00 am to 10:30 am | 3/15/2020-6/14/2020 | 314 MLK

Biblical Hebrew: Absolute Beginners

Facilitated by Laura Harris

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm | 3/15/2020 - 6/14/2020 | 314 MLK

90 Years of Riverside History

Facilitated by Diane Russo

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm | 4/19/2020 - 6/7/2020 | Room TBD

The class will be in honor of Riverside's 90th Anniversary. It will be a survey-style course discussing key points in Riverside's history in the past 90 years, with each class centered around a specific theme. Additionally, for each class, we will bring archival materials to pass around/examine.

Register for The African Presence in the Bible

Dr. Colleen Birchett | 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm | 3/15/2020 - 4/19/2020 | Room TBD

The African Presence in the Bible - Each session would focus on a different biblical personality. The sessions would consider: the historical context, the biblical personality, the spiritual truths, and applications of those truths against the backdrop of today's political climate. The selected passages will also contain issues and themes and central questions at the core of the 2020 presentation campaign.

Creating Space for Social Justice & Healing via a Public Performance

Facilitated by Luvon Roberson

1:00pm to 2:00 pm | 3/15/2020 - 6/7/2020 | Room: TBD

A small group study on the history of medical experimentation on Black Americans and how group study of medical apartheid in US history as well as the small group taking action for social justice via the arts & creativity can/may begin healing by educating ourselves and others on healthcare disparities in the US today.

Women of the Bible

1:00pm to 2:00 pm | 3/15/2020 - 6/7/2020 | Room: TBD

Facilitated by Eldonia Goode