



Lent Meditation—Week 4

Committing to Live in Relationship with God

Invocation

God of relationship, God of Trinity, you flow through everything and you flow through us. Relationships are complicated, and your relationship with us is no different. Be with us this week as we embrace the stuff we can't understand and carry on in relationship with you even without all the answers. Help us to trust.

Confession

Ok Lord, what's the deal? Last week we read "No idols" and this week we see a bronze serpent. If we are floating down the river, do we need to identify every rock and vine in order to enjoy the journey? Sometimes later in the journey we discover new meanings. Like the writer of the Gospel of John, we see your truth revealed. Be patient with us as we grapple with things that confuse us. Help us to have trust in you and in the promises that you have made. Help us to see the big picture and to cling to the promise of Jesus.

Numbers 21:8-9

And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

John 3:14-16

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

Prayer

Leader: Creator God, create in our hearts a trust for you and for your promises. Create in us a love for you and for all of your creation.

All: Help us to trust in our relationship with God.

Leader: Jesus, you often spoke in stories that were confusing to the people who listened to them. Help us to trust in the truth of your love for us and for all people.

All: Help us to trust in our relationship with God.

Leader: Spirit of God, inspire us to action even when we don't have all the answers. Help us to help others even when we don't have all the tools. We have much to learn. Teach us to trust you.

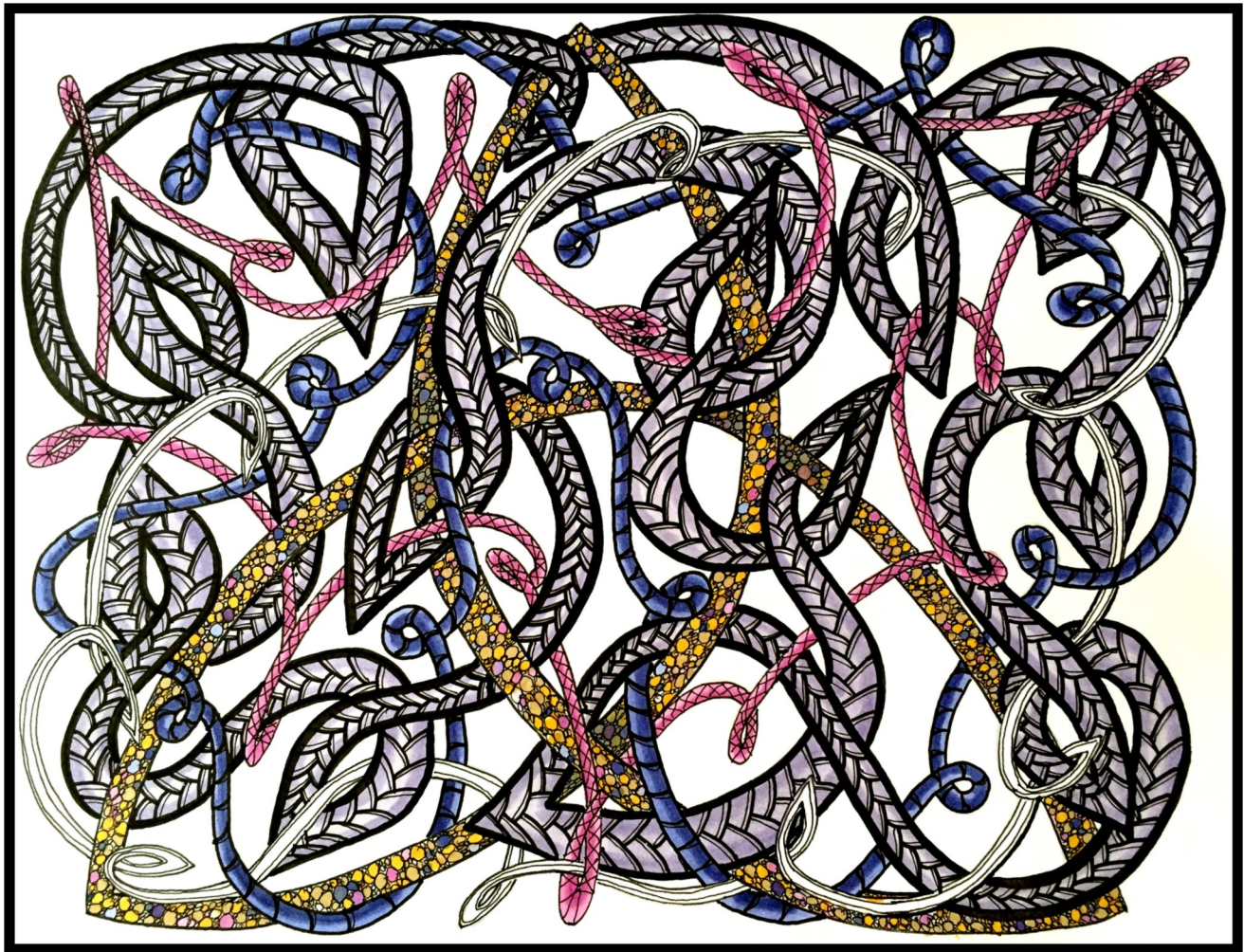
All: Help us to trust in our relationship with God. Amen

A time of silence

You are invited into a time of silence. This year we are looking at how the Celtic knot can lead us into a Spiritual practice. This type of drawing follows the flow of a design by going **over** and then **under** the lines that intersect it. We understand that this rhythm reflects our awareness of God. Sometimes we see God's presence plainly and sometimes we cannot see God anywhere. Even so, we continue in our relationship, trusting that we will be "over" again soon.

Notice how another design has been laid over the ones before it. Notice how complicated the relationship between the designs is. Contemplate the complexity of the knots and how they describe the complexity of our relationships with God and with each other. Follow the designs as a prayer. Say "over" and "under" as you come to intersections. Contemplate how you see that kind of relationship in your life.

Perhaps you would like to make your own design. With a pencil, lightly draw a simple squiggle on the back, making sure that it overlaps itself at points. Now closely outline the periphery of the image as well as the inner loops. Now you can start at any point erasing and emphasizing the intersections – always going **over** and then **under**. Remember that this is also a prayer for us to be in relationship with God.



Covenant knots—Weeks 1, 2, 3, 4

A blessing

May God bless us when we walk humbly.
May God bless us when we don't have all the answers.
May we always walk trusting in our relationship with God.

Lent 2018 Week 4

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