A SPECIAL KIND OF FREEDOM

Matthew 11:16-19;25-30 Harold Long July 5, 2020

Memory Verse: Matthew 11:28 ²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

Opening Prayer

Lord of love and mercy, we come to you this day, at the beginning of the summer season. This should be a time of relaxation and restoration, but our spirits still carry the burdens of the year. Please give to us your healing love. Strengthen us. We offer our cares and our prayers to you in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Lectionary Readings for June 29-July 5, 2020

Genesis 24:34-38 Psalm 45:10-17 Romans 7:15-25a

Matthew 11:16-19; 25-30

QUESTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Read Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67. Which of these or other biblical stories model for you the relationship between God and humanity?

Read Song of Solomon 2:8-13. How have you seen God at work in the way loving relationships have transformed you?

Read Romans 7:15-25a. When have you refused to participate in Communion because you did not feel worthy? How might participating in Communion in times of strife or sin help you be reconciled to God and others?

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Read Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30. The life of faith holds many ironies. How do you hold together the seeming opposites of Jesus' and John's focus in their ministries? of seeking to be yoked to God when your burden is too heavy?

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