

*Daily Morning Message*

*St Paul United Church of Christ*

*5312 Old Blue Rock Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45247*

*Allen M Fluent, Pastor*

*Monday, January 4, 2021*

Daily Lectionary Readings  
Psalm 110  
Proverbs 3:1-12  
James 4:11-17

Today's Scripture Verse: *Do not speak evil against one another, brothers and sisters. Whoever speaks evil against another or judges another, speaks evil against the law and judges the law; but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. (James 4:11)*

What it means: The Book of Proverbs in the Old Testament and the Epistle of James in the New are both books of "wisdom." They contain practical statements that are rooted in the traditions of their people. At the heart of their common tradition is the value of humility. In this verse from James, we receive the helpful insight that judgment belongs to God, so judging another person is itself a failure to submit to the rightful judge, whose understanding is far superior to our own. Our proper human function is not to use God's law to judge one another but to seek our own understanding of God's law and practice it in our own lives.

Our time of prayer: Holy God, we thank you for your law, by which our lives are blessed. Protect us from the arrogance of false judgment. You alone understand the human heart.

