

Daily Morning Message

St Paul United Church of Christ

5312 Old Blue Rock Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45247

Allen M Fluent, Pastor

Friday, March 12, 2021

Daily Lectionary Readings Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
 Numbers 20:22-29
 John 3:1-13

Today's Scripture Verse: *Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above. (John 3:3)*

What it means: These are Jesus' words from his dialogue with the Pharisee Nicodemus that precedes our Gospel lesson for this Sunday. The dialogue as a whole follows a pattern common in John's Gospel, where Jesus makes a statement that is misunderstood, then continues to interpret until a truth is discovered. Here, the misunderstanding is based on a Greek phrase that has three possible interpretations: "born from above," "born again," and "born anew." Jesus is telling Nicodemus that seeing the Kingdom of God requires being transformed by the Spirit, which changes one's perception of everything, as though we were born a new person.

Our time of reflection: We pray, God for our own spiritual transformation, so that we may love as you love and be freed from the bonds that keep us from bold compassion for those in need through all the world.

