

Daily Morning Message
St Paul United Church of Christ
5312 Old Blue Rock Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45247
Allen M Fluent, Pastor
Friday, July 16, 2021

Daily Lectionary Readings

Psalm 23
1 Chronicles 15:1-3
Luke 18:35-43

Today's Scripture Verse:

David built houses for himself in the city of David, and he prepared a place for the ark of God and pitched a tent for it. Then David commanded that no one but the Levites were to carry the ark of God, for the Lord had chosen them to carry the ark of the Lord and to minister to him forever. (1 Chronicles 15:1-2)

What it means:

The twelve tribes of Israel were descendants of the twelve sons of Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel. One of those tribes, however, had a special priestly role. In this passage, it is only the Levites who are allowed to carry the ark, because they were regarded as chosen by God for this ministry. The Levites had no home territory or portion of the land. They were chosen to carry out their religious functions among all the tribes.

Our time of reflection:

The pattern of people being designated for certain functions by divine decree is an old one in the world of religion. Although some people in our own tradition feel that they are called by God into their vocation, we strongly affirm the "priesthood of all believers" as a principle of the Reformation. In the New Testament, we find Jesus often criticizing those who had inherited their religious offices but lacked sensitivity to the authority of God. Human authority in the church must be treated with care, and never allowed to be converted into dominating power.

