

Daily Morning Message
St Paul United Church of Christ
5312 Old Blue Rock Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45247
Allen M Fluent, Pastor
Thursday, August 12, 2021

Lectionary Readings *Psalm 111*
Job 11:1-20
Acts 6:8-15

Today's Scripture Verse: *For you say, 'My conduct is pure, and I am clean in God's sight.' But oh, that God would speak, and open his lips to you, and that he would tell you the secrets of wisdom! For wisdom is many-sided. Know then that God exacts of you less than your guilt deserves. (Job 11:4-6)*

What it means: These are some of the words spoken to Job in his time of suffering. Job's friend who is trying to help assumes that Job has done something wrong and is unworthy of God's help until he figures out what it is. This is extremely bad advice and bad religion as well. The truth is that bad things happen to good people; and when they do, it is a poor friend who adds to the suffering person's burden by blaming him/her for what has happened.

Our time of reflection: God, we pray that we may trust you all our days, and that we may be assured that the bad things that happen in our lives are not punishments that come from you. Release us from the burden of judgmental religion, so that we may live compassionate and joyful lives inspired by your grace.

