

Daily Morning Message
St Paul United Church of Christ
5312 Old Blue Rock Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45247
Allen M Fluent, Pastor
Tuesday, August 31, 2021

Lectionary Readings *Psalm 106:1-6, 13-23, 47-48*
Deuteronomy 4:15-20
*1 Timothy 4:18-25 (See note below)**

Today's Scripture Verse: *Since you saw no form when the Lord spoke to you at Horeb out of the fire, take care and watch yourselves closely, so that you do not act corruptly by making an idol for yourselves, in the form of any figure – the likeness of male or female.... (Deuteronomy 4:15-16)*

What it means: “Horeb” is another name for Mt Sinai, where Moses received the ten commandments from God. The writer in Deuteronomy here reminds us that all images of God are inadequate to describe the One who fills everything and also is beyond everything. He bases this on the story of how the people at the mountain were not able to see any “form” of God.

Our time of reflection: The forms that we create for God are ways to make the incomprehensible, spiritual center of the Universe into an image we can identify, and, possibly, control. But the God of our salvation cannot be manipulated by our desires or limited by our imaginations.¹¹¹

*Comment on 1 Timothy 4:18- 25: This is the New Testament reading listed in the lectionary for today, but it is a passage that was sadly inappropriate even when it was written in the first century. It misuses the suffering of Christ as an excuse to advocate submissiveness to masters among people who were enslaved and oppressed; and it is one of the passages of Scripture used in the American South in the time of slavery to claim human bondage as a moral institution. Its original purpose was to try to avoid persecution of the church by the wealthy and powerful.

