

**Scripture Readings**  
**October 21, 2018**

Psalms 92:1-5, 12-15 (NRSV)

<sup>1</sup>It is good to give thanks to the LORD,  
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;  
<sup>2</sup>to declare your steadfast love in the morning,  
and your faithfulness by night,  
<sup>3</sup>to the music of the lute and the harp,  
to the melody of the lyre.  
<sup>4</sup>For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work;  
at the works of your hands I sing for joy.  
<sup>5</sup>How great are your works, O LORD!  
Your thoughts are very deep!  
<sup>12</sup>The righteous flourish like the palm tree,  
and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.  
<sup>13</sup>They are planted in the house of the LORD;  
they flourish in the courts of our God.  
<sup>14</sup>In old age they still produce fruit;  
they are always green and full of sap,  
<sup>15</sup>showing that the LORD is upright;  
he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

Reading: 1 John 4:17-21 (The Message Version)

**17** This way, love has the run of the house, becomes at home and mature in us, so that we're free of worry on Judgment Day - our standing in the world is identical with Christ's. **18** There is no room in love for fear. Well-formed love banishes fear. Since fear is crippling, a fearful life - fear of death, fear of judgment - is one not yet fully formed in love. **19** We, though, are going to love - love and be loved. First we were loved, now we love. He loved us first. **20** If anyone boasts, "I love God," and goes right on hating his brother or sister, thinking nothing of it, he is a liar. If he won't love the person he can see, how can he love the God he can't see? **21** The command we have from Christ is blunt: Loving God includes loving people. You've got to love both.

Gospel: John 3:16-21 (The Message Version)

**16** "This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. **17** God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again. **18** Anyone who trusts in him is acquitted; anyone who refuses to trust him has long since been under the death sentence without knowing it. And why? Because of that person's failure to believe in the one-of-a-kind Son of God when introduced to him.  
**19** "This is the crisis we're in: God-light streamed into the world, but men and women everywhere ran for the darkness. They went for the darkness because they were not really interested in pleasing God. **20** Everyone who makes a practice of doing evil, addicted to denial and illusion, hates God-light and won't come near it, fearing a painful exposure. **21** But anyone working and living in truth and reality welcomes God-light so the work can be seen for the God-work it is."