

be opened

"Be opened." Those two little words are spoken by Jesus to the ears of the deaf man (Mark 7:24-37). But, they are always God's words spoken to us. Our constant call is to be opened. Open to the movement of God, to the word of God, the hope of God, the salvation of God. Open to being fed at God's table, forgiven of our trespasses, and recipients of Grace.

In the Epistle lesson (James 2:1-14) we see James, the "brother of the Lord," speaking to his community about not closing themselves off to the discriminations of the world. They are tempted to favor the rich and influential, but James asks them to be open to seeing everyone who walks through their doors as a beloved child of God - a neighbor.

(Track 1, RCL) The lesson from Proverbs (Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23) seeks to break down the same walls as James, asking us to be open to seeing that everyone is made by God, regardless of our bank accounts, and that those who share what they have with those less fortunate will be blessed.

(Track 2, RCL) The lesson from Isaiah (Isaiah 35:4-7a) is a plea to those who are scared to be open to the wonder working power of God. When you're at your lowest, it's hard to be hopeful, but the story of God is a story of victory after defeat, healing after injury, and life after death.

If only we are open.

flannelgraph

Prayer

Wherever I am closed, Lord, open me. Peel me back. Dig me out. Help me bloom. Let me be open to the hope that is in you, and the Life that you planted deep within me on the day of my baptism. Amen.

On the way to "soccer practice"...

When is it hard for you to be open? Who is it hard for you to be open to? Who isn't exactly open to you and your ideas, insights, or feelings? What does it mean for us to be open for God?

Social Media Flannelgraph

Post a picture of something that has opened, something beautiful, something in full bloom. Share how God is opening you in the same way.

