

## Nourishing Vocation Lectionary

### Phase 1: Nourishing Personal Vocational Discernment

#### Section 4: Encountering God - Experiencing the Holy in Everyday Life

From Psalm 46, 1 Kings 19:11-18, Matthew 6:25-34, John 13:1-17; 31b-35

Everyday life can seem separate from God, as if nothing mundane, commonplace, or repetitive could ever be holy. Yet the Bible is full of stories where God shows up within people's real lives, and many of us know from our own lives of faith that God is present in our lasting relationships, in encounters with strangers, and in the natural world around us. Especially for those of us who are Christian and believe in an incarnate God who became flesh and lived on earth in a body—a God who was laid in a feeding trough as a baby, wandered away from his parents as an adolescent, made friends as an adult, fed the hungry, healed the sick, and was executed by the Roman empire—we cannot coherently deny the holiness inherent in our fleshy, earthly existence, nor can we deny that God is here with us as we live out our lives, however mundane they may be.

Psalm 46 reminds us that God is present everywhere as our comfort and refuge, especially in times of violence, natural disaster, and other upheaval. The reading from 1 Kings reiterates that natural disasters are not punishment from God. Furthermore, it emphasizes that God can be present even when we do not hear God, in silence and stillness; we do not need to search for God only in the large and the dramatic. The text from Matthew encourages us to marvel at nature, considering God's creative action in our everyday surroundings. In the passage from John, Jesus encourages us to follow the example he gave as our enfleshed Savior, taking care of one another in body as well as in spirit.

Together these readings remind us that God is with us in both the quiet parts of our lives and in the chaos, and that we should care for each other as God cares for us.