

## MONDAY

7 MARCH

Leviticus 19:1-2.

11-18

Psalm 19:7-end

Matthew 25:31-end

## TUESDAY

8 MARCH

Isaiah 55:10-11

Psalm 34:4-6. 21-22

Matthew 6:7-15

## WEDNESDAY

9 MARCH

Jonah 3

Psalm 51:1-5. 17-18

Luke 11:29-32

## THURSDAY

10 MARCH

Esther 14:1-5. 12-

14 or Isaiah 55:6-9

Psalm 138

Matthew 7:7-12

## FRIDAY

11 MARCH

Ezekiel 18:21-28

Psalm 130

Matthew 5:20-26

## SATURDAY

12 MARCH

Deuteronomy

26:16-end

Psalm 119:1-8

Matthew 5:43-end

## REFLECTION

This week's readings from the Old Testament may come from a variety of different books, but they have a common theme, a theme that is particularly apposite for Lent.



On Monday, Leviticus gives us the Ten Commandments, starting with the all-important one: the command to remember the holiness of God. Everything else flows from that. On Wednesday, Jonah finally accepts his commission from God and proclaims God's judgement on Nineveh and, just as Jonah had feared, the king and people of Nineveh repent and God changes his mind. Ezekiel, on Friday, explains why: God longs for everyone to react as the people of Nineveh do. He is not vengeful, merely just.

The Lenten theme of repentance and renewal comes through these readings very strongly. Now is the time to take stock, to turn away from the things that damage us and our world, and to return to God. Our lives, both as individuals, and as the people of God, are to be a showcase for God's purposes on earth. All we do is to be based in this relationship with God our creator, whose commands are not arbitrary but life-giving.

## PRAYER

Heavenly Father,  
Your Son battled with the powers of darkness,  
And grew closer to you in the desert.  
Help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer,  
that we may witness to your saving love  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

CHRISTIAN CLASSICS –  
A LENTEN STUDY COURSEMERE CHRISTIANITY  
BY C. S. LEWIS – PART I

During Lent, Jane Williams will be studying some of the ideas from one of the great modern classics of Christianity: C. S. Lewis' Mere Christianity.

Lewis' book is an edited and expanded form of a series of radio talks that he gave in the 1940s, so he writes not necessarily for a Christian audience, but for anyone who is interested. Importantly, he very deliberately avoids talking in any detail about the issues that divide Christians, aiming instead for "mere" Christianity – the faith that all Christians can recognise. Lewis says, surely correctly, that "the discussion of these disputed points has no tendency at all to bring an outsider into the Christian fold".

Lewis' starting point is that all human cultures have a concept of the difference between right and wrong, and in all cultures, people fail to live up to the standards that such concepts approve. Every known place or era of history has what Lewis calls a "rule of decent behaviour", even if this "rule" is not identical across all times and places. Now, the non-human world is governed by "rules" or "nature", which it simply obeys, without thinking about it. But human beings know of a "rule" which they understand and agree with but do not always obey.

Lewis points out what an odd situation that is, and argues that it points to the possibility that "somebody or something from beyond the material universe was actually getting at us." The "rule of decent behaviour" is universally understood and yet not quite natural to us.

Could it be that that is because it comes from God?

Questions for thought or discussion:

- What do you think of Lewis' idea of "the rule of decent behaviour"?
- Why do you think Lewis started his discussion of "mere Christianity" here?
- Where would you start a talk about what you believe?

LIVE  
the WORDSUSTAINING YOU  
THROUGH THE WEEK

Edited by  
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and  
Heather Smith



First week of Lent

Monday 7 March to  
Saturday 12 March  
2022

WEEK

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