

# LECTIONARY SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR AUGUST WORSHIP

## **August 1: Ephesians 4:1-16 and John 6:24-35**

An image of the church knit together as one body challenges us to live a connected life and grow together in truth and love nourished by the Bread of Life. There are many forms of ministry and many different gifts that each of us receives. No one is to be all things to all people, nor masters of everything. Instead, God invests talents, gifts, and graces in each one of us, and challenges us to use those to build up the church and community.

## **August 8: Ephesians 4:25-5:2 and John 6:35, 41-51**

Reminded by the letter writer that we are members of one another, and our welfare is inextricably linked, we are challenged and inspired to live as imitators of God, nourished and sustained by the Bread of Life. Anger is a universal human emotion. It is not always a negative emotion; sometimes, it inspires positive action. However, it can also eat away at us. The advice not to let the sun set on our anger is good advice, for it encourages us to deal with that anger and not to let it fester.

## **August 15: Ephesians 5:15-20 and John 6:51-58**

The author of the letter to the church in Ephesus offers concrete guidance on living a life shaped by the gospel of Jesus, the Bread, and invites us to consider how we spend our time so who we are and how we live is in alignment. The letter makes comparisons between life in the Spirit, and life in the world – that is, life in accordance with God’s way as opposed to life focused on self and things of the current world. We are encouraged to be filled with God’s Spirit, to sing and make praise with heart and voice.

## **August 22: Ephesians 6:10-20 and John 6:56-69**

This morning we come to the end of the letter to the Ephesians with encouragement to stand firm in love and prayer clothed in truth, righteousness, and peace. The author knows the people in the early church do not have the means to confront the power of Rome. But what they do have is something more important. Armed with truth, righteousness, a readiness to proclaim the gospel of peace, we too can confront all that this world can throw at us.

## **August 29: James 1:17-27 and Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23**

As we open the letter of James, we are challenged to find connections between what we believe and say about God and the actions we take each day. The letter of James reminds us of the perpetual biblical imperative to care for the orphans and widows. James then tells us to be people who do not just hear God’s word, but people who do God’s word.

