The reading of Holy Scripture together as a community has been a central part of Christian worship throughout the Church’s long history, and it has deep roots within the practices of God’s people, Israel.

We read Scripture together not simply to learn new information about God’s dealings with humanity in the past, but to listen in faith to what the Living God is saying to us His people today. We listen to His Word to draw closer to Him, and to one another.

After every Scripture Reading this morning, we’re all invited to take a few moments in silence to reflect upon the passage, and how God’s Spirit might be addressing us through it, as individuals or as a community.

In those moments, pay attention to any words, ideas, or images that stand out to you. In the silence afterwards, ask God to help you hear His heart for you today.

After the Gospel is read, and we’ve taken a moment to in silence to reflect upon it, I’ll share a few reflection questions that Pastor Rob has prepared to help us dig in a bit deeper.

Reflection Questions

* In our First Reading from the Prophet Isaiah, God rejects the insincere worship practices of His people, calling instead for them to turn their lives around, and He will forgive and restore them.
* In our Second Reading from Hebrews, we are reminded of a whole host of people from Scripture who put their faith into practice in surprising ways that seemed out of sync with the lives of those around them, but fit well with God’s work in the world.
* In our Gospel Reading, Jesus calls His people to anticipate the coming of God’s eternal Kingdom, and to adjust our practices and priorities so we are prepared to participate in it, even now.
* **In what ways might our spiritual practices (both our personal ones, and when we gather together as the Church) either prepare us to live God’s way, or perhaps need to be corrected?**
* **What are the ways we are being invited to change (as individuals or a Church community) in order to take part in Christ’s Kingdom work today?**