

# 2020 SUMMER DEVOTIONAL

First Presbyterian Church, Greensboro, NC  
fpcgreensboro.org

## Week nine



My Hour Has  
Not Yet Come

John 2:  
1-11

In reading through the gospel of John one cannot help but notice a word, concept, or theme that comes up time and time again and especially on the lips of Jesus, such as when he converses with his mother at the wedding in Cana of Galilee (2:4), or engages the Samaritan woman at the well (4:23), or speaks to the Jews as he teaches (5:24, 28; 7:6, 8), or instructs his disciples (12:23; 16:2, 4, 21, 32), or when he prays to his Father (17:1; 19:27). What is more, the narrator of this gospel uses this same word or concept to describe what is taking place in Jesus' life and mission (7:30; 8:20; 13:1). This word/concept is Jesus's "hour." In Greek the word for hour is *hora*, though occasionally the term for time, *chairos*, appears but it carries the same meaning.

When this word is used by or about Jesus it is a rich metaphor referring to some climactic moment or event in the life of Jesus related to his salvific work or redemption and especially of his approaching death and resurrection, which John views as Jesus's "glorification." Whatever the event may be, it speaks to Jesus's life work and is a moment of revelation to those who believe and understand its significance. In our lesson today, the changing of the water into wine of both quality and quantity was for his disciples a manifestation of Jesus's glory, and probably a sign of his messiahship as well, for it was popularly believed that when the Messiah arrived there would be good wine available for all.

At the wedding in Cana this reference to Jesus' s"hour" first appears. This event is also the first of seven so-called "signs" (2:11) which reveal something of Jesus' glory. Part of what makes this fourth gospel so rewarding and revealing is that a simple story is told that could be recited by anyone but which carries a far deeper meaning for those who understand and believe and are willing to explore its depths. Today we might say that the wedding in Cana and the turning of the water into wine was an "aha" moment for the first disciples.

I believe that we are still graced with "aha" moments in our own lives when the voice and vision of God telling us what we need to know and showing us what we ought to do are discerned in fresh ways. Maybe it happens at a wedding reception or at a campfire when we come to understand that in spite of ourselves we are loved, forgiven and accepted. Maybe it occurs when we read a novel that touches us, or see the birth of a child or lose a loved one. Maybe it happens in the viewing of a sunrise, or in the recovering from an illness, or even experience the isolation of a pandemic. In this moment we have some truth about God or about ourselves brought home to us thus revealing the wonder and glory of God as it is manifested to us as never before.

So, given your present circumstances and needs today, what might God be revealing to you today if you are only willing to stop, look, and listen for a deeper meaning?



John 2:4  
And Jesus said  
to her, 'Woman,  
what concern  
is that to you  
and to me? My  
hour has not yet  
come.'

This charcoal drawing, entitled "My hour has not yet come," is by FPC member Alex Galloway. Alex writes, "Perhaps Jesus's mother was thinking, 'If not now, when?'"

Take in the drawing, slowly moving your eyes over the image. Invite the Holy Spirit to be present with you in this exercise of visual devotion.

What do you notice when you look at the drawing?  
What first stands out to you?

How do the lines and shapes in the drawing make you feel? Does your eye gravitate towards a particular shape?

Read today's scripture verse. Do you experience any resonances between the scripture and the image?

Pause. Breathe. Take in the image once more. Close your devotion time with a prayer, offering to God the prayers of thanksgiving and intercession that are on your heart this day.

WEEK NINE  
—  
DAY TWO

Visio divina

WEEK NINE  
DAY THREE

## Spiritual practice

### Stewardship

We know that our faith deepens and broadens when we engage embodied practices that form us as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. We invite you this week into a practice of stewardship.

Although in the life of Christian congregations we often hear of stewardship in terms of financial giving, Christian practices of stewardship are as broad as the gifts that God has given us. We are practicing stewardship any time we respond to God's gifts in our lives by giving back a portion of what we have been gifted! This means that when we care for creation, offer our time to a ministry we believe in, give money for the work of God in the world, or use our own special talents and gifts for the cultivation of Christian community, we are practicing good stewardship.

This week, you are invited to identify a way that God might be calling you to steward the resources of your own life. Be creative! To brainstorm, you might make a list of the blessings you're experiencing in your life right now. Where are you experiencing God's abundance? How might you return a portion of that abundance? Pray about where the Spirit might be leading you to give back.