



Welcome to Community Covenant Church's 2017 Prayer Walk at the Nelson. This prayer walk is intended for anytime during the Advent Season beginning Dec. 3 and concluding Dec. 25th.

The Museum address is 4525 Oak St, Kansas City MO 6411. Hours of operation are as follows...

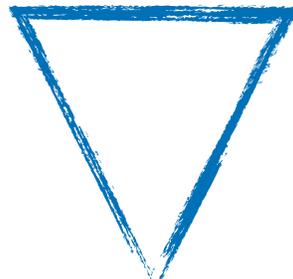
Wed: 10am-5pm
Thur: 10am-9pm
Fri: 10am-9pm
Sat: 10am-5pm
Sun: 10am-5pm
Mon-Tues: CLOSED

The Museum will also be closed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Be sure to pick up a map on the way in. This will help you a great deal as all room doors in the museum are marked by a letter and number in the top corner. Elevators are available throughout the museum if stairs are difficult. You may also go to the information desk and request a golf cart ride :). Seats and restrooms are available throughout the museum as well for your comfort and convenience.

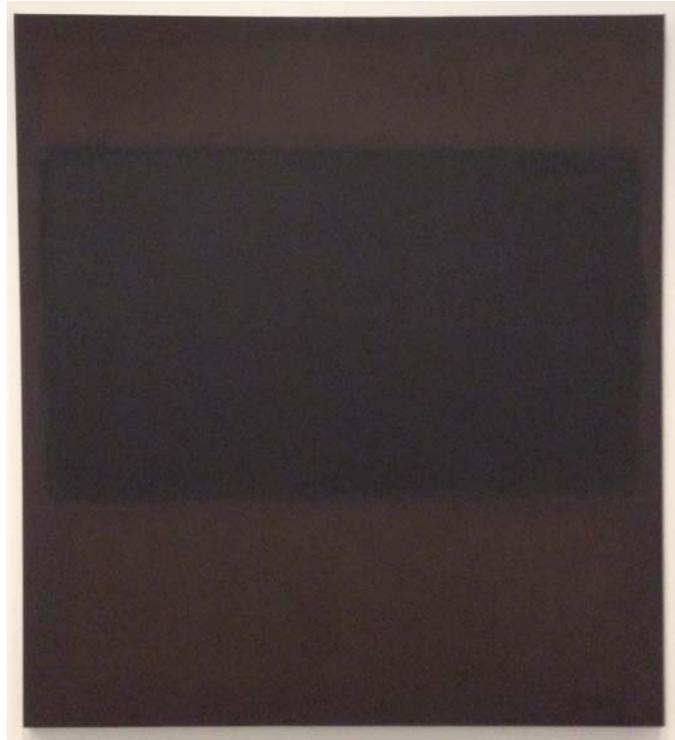
The purpose of this prayer walk is to deepen your journey through the Advent Season with focused thought and prayer on the birth of Jesus Christ our LORD. I invite you to welcome all of your emotions into this experience—sadness, anger, confusion, joy, gratitude, etc. **The prompts I offer throughout are merely suggestions.** Speak candidly with God about Jesus' birth that took place long ago AND how it speaks into your life, our church, this world right now.

In short...be open. Now, let's begin...



Stop #1: Room L2

Untitled No. 11 by Mark Rothko



“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.”

Genesis 1:1-2

Prompts:

Read the description of this painting and the artist’s intention behind it. Take time to imagine the formless and empty void that was in the beginning and the imagine the presence of God hovering above—just waiting to pierce that void with creation and light.

Are their dark areas in your life that naturally come to mind as you think about this? Do you believe that God is willing and able to enter into this places? That he is actually waiting, with all his creativity, power, and might to enter in if you will allow Him?

Think on this and pray.

Stop #2: Room L5

Untitled (Full Moon) by Gulliermo Kuitca



"In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while[a] Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register."

Luke 2:1-3

Prompts:

I remember sitting around the Christmas tree, waiting to open presents, and hearing my dad read these first words of Luke 2 and getting that warm, nostalgic, comfy feeling. This should not be how we feel when we read these words.

Luke's purpose in including this act by Ceasar Augustus is to have the reader understand just how broken the situation with God's children had become. They had certainly fallen a far distance from where they were meant to be, and now were under the thumb of a power structure that demanded they number themselves just so that power could be demonstrated publicly.

What brokenness do you carry into this Advent season? Do you find your self held captive? Do you long for freedom in these situations? Do you believe God can give you that?

Think on this and pray.

Stop #3: Room L10

Yosemite by Jerry Spagnoll



Prompts:

“And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.”

Genesis 1:3

Four words and the darkness was overcome. God is setting a theme for the rest of his story here. An infinite truth that has been, is, and will always be true. No matter the depth of the darkness, light will overcome.

Psalm 30

I will exalt you, Lord,
for you lifted me out of the depths
and did not let my enemies gloat over me.
Lord my God, I called to you for help,
and you healed me.
You, Lord, brought me up from the realm of the
dead;
you spared me from going down to the pit.
Sing the praises of the Lord, you his faithful
people;
praise his holy name.
For his anger lasts only a moment,
but his favor lasts a lifetime;
weeping may stay for the night,
but rejoicing comes in the morning.
When I felt secure, I said,
“I will never be shaken.”

Lord, when you favored me,
you made my royal mountain stand firm;
but when you hid your face,
I was dismayed.
To you, Lord, I called;
to the Lord I cried for mercy:
“What is gained if I am silenced,
if I go down to the pit?
Will the dust praise you?
Will it proclaim your faithfulness?
Hear, Lord, and be merciful to me;
Lord, be my help.”
You turned my wailing into dancing;
you removed my sackcloth and clothed me
with joy,
that my heart may sing your praises and not be
silent.
Lord my God, I will praise you forever.

Stop #4: Room P15

John the Baptist by Caravaggio



Prompts:

“Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. But the angel said to him: ‘Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.’”

Luke 1: 11-17

John’s purpose from his very birth was to see beyond himself to a bigger picture. As John writes “He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.” Wow! Do we practice coming to the LORD with this kind of humility? That our lives are nothing but a small piece of a much bigger picture? The very best we can do is point people to Christ as John did?

Think on this and pray.

Stop #5: Room P8

The Virgin and Child

Prompts:

And Mary said:

“My soul glorifies the Lord
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has been mindful
of the humble state of his servant.
From now on all generations will call me blessed,
for the Mighty One has done great things for me—
holy is his name.

His mercy extends to those who fear him,
from generation to generation.

He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

He has brought down rulers from their thrones
but has lifted up the humble.

He has filled the hungry with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful
to Abraham and his descendants forever,
just as he promised our ancestors.”

Luke 1: 46-55



During this Advent Season my hope is that we don't soften the story of Jesus coming. This is a dangerous and provocative story. What Mary was being asked to do was unbelievably unfair to ask of a teenage girl. The cultural repercussions alone would be great, let alone what was to come when Jesus carried his ministry on Earth to its completion.

Are we willing to accept that this is still the kind of story that God is unfolding in this world today? It isn't always pretty and perfect, orderly and expected. Are we able to wrestle with the idea that the story of how God will redeem this broken world to its intended wholeness will be just as provocative and gritty as a teenage virgin giving birth to a child with a "mysterious" conception? How does this change, or reaffirm, the way you see our mission as followers and our mission as a church? Read again Mary's response to the angels "good news".

Think on this and pray.

Stop #6: Room P5

Adoration of the Magi by Gherardo di Jacopo Starna



Prompts:

“The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.”

Luke 2:20

Adoration means deep love and respect, high regard, awe, devotion, worship. Is your Advent Season lacking in true and pure adoration at the gift of the Christ child? Mine was. It took my son playing the part of the child Christ in a play and watching one of the wisemen lie himself prostrate before him for me to be moved to a place of adoration. What can you do this Christmas season to spend time everyday in sheer and utter adoration for what God did? Maybe you come back to this piece of artwork and put yourself in the place of the shepherds and wisemen who knew what the angels had said, who this fragile child was, and what he had come to do.

Think on this and pray.

Stop #7: Room P5

Altarpiece with Scenes from the Life of the Virgin by Goncal Peris de Sarria



Prompts:

Take time to view every picture within this altarpiece. Though Advent is about waiting for the Christ child we don't have to act as if we don't know the rest of the story. As you look upon this piece wonder at how amazing it is that we have a God who went to this length just to draw us close. We worship a deity who not only wants, but longs for, deep intimacy with us. How great is our God!

Think on this and pray.

Stop #8: Room P30

Four Stems of Roses by Pierre-Joseph Redouté



Prompt:

The desert and the parched land will be glad;
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.
Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom;
it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.
The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;
they will see the glory of the Lord,
the splendor of our God.
Strengthen the feeble hands,
steady the knees that give way;
say to those with fearful hearts,
“Be strong, do not fear;
your God will come,
he will come with vengeance;
with divine retribution
he will come to save you.”
Then will the eyes of the blind be opened
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.
Then will the lame leap like a deer,
and the mute tongue shout for joy.

Water will gush forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert.
The burning sand will become a pool,
the thirsty ground bubbling springs.
In the haunts where jackals once lay,
grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.
And a highway will be there;
it will be called the Way of Holiness;
it will be for those who walk on that Way.
The unclean will not journey on it;
wicked fools will not go about on it.
No lion will be there,
nor any ravenous beast;
they will not be found there.
But only the redeemed will walk there,
and those the Lord has rescued will return.
They will enter Zion with singing;
everlasting joy will crown their heads.
Gladness and joy will overtake them,
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

Isaiah 35

Think on this and pray.

Go in Peace