



Discussion Guide for “God in Solidarity with Us”

Deep Breath Week 1

As the pandemic wears on, more and more of us experience a deep sense of loneliness. At the beginning of this new year, how can we find God present with us in a way that doesn't ask us to ignore that pain? How does God's solidarity with us actually speak to this deep sense of isolation so many of us carry right now?

Scriptures for Further Reading

Isaiah 43:1-7, Psalm 29, Luke 3:15-22, Acts 8:14-17

[Click here](#) to read all scriptures

Passage for Sacred Reading:

Sacred Reading is a way of reading Scripture with an eye toward transformation, not just information. You can find a [step-by-step guide here](#). The passage for this week's sacred reading is [Luke 3:1-22](#).

Questions for Discussion

1. Have you experienced loneliness during the pandemic? How would you describe it?
2. Isaiah 43 addresses the experience of those in Exile. How do you think their experience parallels yours during the pandemic?
3. How does God begin the message to the Exiles?
4. What does God mean by claiming to 'redeem' the Exiles? What does it mean for you to receive God's redemption of *you*?
5. So why *did* Jesus get baptized, anyway? And what does that mean for you, right now?
6. What does it look like for you to experience God's solidarity with you this week?