Space for God Taking up Space

PREPARATION

This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives, just as it changed your lives from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God's wonderful grace. Colossians 1:6

CONFESSION

Return, O Israel, to the Lord your God,
for your sins have brought you down.
Bring your confessions, and return to the Lord.
Say to him,
"**Forgive all our sins and graciously receive us,
so that we may offer you our praises.**" Hosea 14:1-2

WORSHIP

The high and lofty one who lives in eternity,
the Holy One, says this:
"**I live in the high and holy place
with those whose spirits are contrite and humble.
I restore the crushed spirit of the humble
and revive the courage of those with repentant hearts.**" Isaiah 57:15

MEDITATION & CONTEMPLATION—Luke 13:1-9*

About this time Jesus was informed that Pilate had murdered some people from Galilee as they were offering sacrifices at the Temple. "Do you think those Galileans were worse sinners than all the other people from Galilee?" Jesus asked. "Is that why they suffered? Not at all! And you will perish, too, unless you repent of your sins and turn to God. And what about the eighteen people who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them? Were they the worst sinners in Jerusalem? No, and I tell you again that unless you repent, you will perish, too."

IN SOLITUDE AND/OR COMMUNITY

Read	Slowly, several times.
Reflect	What does the text say?
Respond	How does it relate to my life?
Rest	I welcome God's healing and renewal.

Then Jesus told this story: "A man planted a fig tree in his garden and came again and again to see if there was any fruit on it, but he was always disappointed. Finally, he said to his gardener, 'I've waited three years, and there hasn't been a single fig! Cut it down. It's just taking up space in the garden.'

"The gardener answered, 'Sir, give it one more chance. Leave it another year, and I'll give it special attention and plenty of fertilizer. If we get figs next year, fine. If not, then you can cut it down.'"

ANCHORING PRAYER

"I turn to You, O Lord."

REVIEW OF THE HEART (previous 24 hours)

What fruit do I see in my life?

In what way am I just "taking up space" in the garden?

WISDOM

As workers who tend a fig tree are allowed to eat the fruit, so workers who protect their employer's interests will be rewarded. Proverbs 27:18

A tree is identified by its fruit. Figs are never gathered from thornbushes, and grapes are not picked from bramble bushes. Luke 6:44

TESTIMONY *What is God saying to me?*

INTERCESSION *Prayers for the Church, for others, and for me.*

"Lord, teach us to pray. Give us Thy holy desires, and let our prayer be the very echo of Thy will." -A.B. Simpson, *The Life of Prayer.*

BENEDICTION

May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation—the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ—for this will bring much glory and praise to God.

(Amen)

Philippians 1:11

SPACE FOR GOD DAILY

Be still and quiet before God.
Seek the Holy Spirit's filling and
Speak and act from a listening heart.
Actively serve in community with others.

PermaneSED (Abide) Kurt D. Peters. **Bold** portions to be read in unison. *Lectionary, Year C.
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