



## REVEILLE'S GPS WEEKLY SCRIPTURE GUIDE

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Explore scriptures and daily devotionals that reflect on this Sunday's sermon message. Sign up to receive the daily devotional email at [www.bit.ly/devotional-rumc](http://www.bit.ly/devotional-rumc).

**November 4-10, 2024**

**Sermon Title: "Post-Election Peace" by Rev. Dr. Peter Moon**

Use the space below to reflect on the questions in this week's devotionals, make class and sermon notes, and write down prayers and concerns.

### **Questions for small groups and individual reflection:**

1. As we gather for worship, a few days after the election, to use John Wesley's famous question, "How is it with your soul?"
2. In a few weeks, you are going to gather around thanksgiving tables with people who disagree with you politically. How will you handle those conversations, given that this election will still be so raw for so many?
3. There is a distinct possibility that the election result will not be decided by the Sunday that this sermon is delivered. If so, how is your faith helping you in this nebulous place?

### **Monday, November 4: Read Matthew 5:1-12**

In the final weeks of the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln famously offered the Second Inaugural Address, hoping to "bind the nation's wounds." Our country is not in a civil war, but this week – election week – finds us deeply divided and deeply hurting. Once the election results are posted, half of us will be disappointed. We will therefore prepare for a sermon this Sunday by Pete Moon aimed at helping us seek peace and reconciliation with our neighbors, families, and friends, drawing in part on the lessons we gleaned from our previous four-week series on politics, one theme of which was the truth that as Christians, our primary allegiance as followers of Jesus is to the kingdom of God, not other kingdoms. The Beatitudes remind us of the importance of mercy, peacemaking, and loving our enemies. What is the importance of this message on the eve of the election?

- **Relationship Opportunity:** *Discuss if you believe the Beatitudes are relevant to our season in our nation's history. Why or why not?*

## **Tuesday, November 5: ELECTION DAY: Read Matthew 5:38-48**

Today, our nation votes on who will be our next President. There will be a winner and a loser as elections are set up to create. If polls prove correct, something like half of our nation supported a winner; the other half someone who lost. This binary division also has a way of revealing our own character. Today, we are called by Jesus to transcend this binary thinking, going beyond the traditional “us vs. them” thinking that justifies principles such as “an eye for an eye” and “love your neighbor; hate your enemy.” Jesus wants our character as Christians to shine through, whether our candidate wins or loses.

- **Discipleship Opportunity:** *Decide today, before election results are announced, how you will reflect Christian character as a “winner” or a “loser”. What difference does this make?*

## **Wednesday, November 6: Read Jeremiah 29:4-11**

This morning, we may or may not know who won the election. Either way, we are certain to be in a state of uncertainty and volatility. What are we to do? What if the election didn’t turn out as we hoped? What if we are genuinely worried about our future? Today’s words from the prophet Jeremiah may give us some guidance. Written to the exiled Jews in Babylon who were mourning the destruction of their government, homeland, and way of life, the prophet says, *“Build houses and settle down; plant gardens...seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you...for I know the plans I have for you...plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”* If the exiled Jews could live with this hope and peace, what more can we do this morning?

- **Relationship Opportunity:** *Share this passage and message with someone who needs it today.*

## **Thursday, November 7: Read Galatians 5:13-26**

With great freedom comes great responsibility. Our democracy hinges on personal responsibility. So, too, does the Christian life require responsibility, discipline, and obedience within our freedom. Yesterday’s message spoke to those who may fear the results of the election. Today’s may speak more to those of us who are happy with the results. Now is not the time for gloating or pushing through selfish agendas. Now is the time for humility, gratitude, and the fruit of the Spirit to come out, including a spirit of love, peace, and gentleness. What does that look like on a national scale, as well as a personal one?

- **Study Opportunity:** *Research political leaders whom you believe best demonstrated the fruit of the Spirit in their victory and their leadership. What message does their example give us today?*

## **Friday, November 8: Read Romans 15:1-13**

Today’s passage from Romans beautifully ties together the readings from this week, imploring all of us to think of our strength and power as opportunities to protect one another, build each other up, provide hope, accept one another, and give mercy, all in the name of praise and gratitude of God. Let us carefully examine our words, actions, and attitudes in the upcoming days and weeks to ensure we are reflecting these principles, and watching out for those who feel left behind, powerless, and discouraged.

- **Relationship and Discipleship Opportunity:** *Based on what you know about the elections, brainstorm with others what you believe your opportunities, challenges, and responsibilities are now, given today’s scripture.*

## **Saturday, November 9: SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Romans 15:5-6**

“May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

**Sunday, November 10: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship by praying our Prayer of Common Confession:** *Almighty and loving God, you have called us to love our enemies, and we have not. You have called us to build up even those with whom we disagree, and we have fallen short. You have given us the power of your Holy Spirit within our divided season, and we have turned to our own ways. Forgive us, O Lord. Lead us once again into the beauty and blessings of the words of Jesus to which we turn today, for we ask it all in his holy name, Amen.*