

### **Prayer of the Week:**

*Grant, O Lord, that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by your providence, that your Church may joyfully serve you in quiet confidence and godly peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

*(Source: Book of Common Prayer 2019, Collects of the Christian Year, Proper Five)*

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving:**

*Almighty God, Father of all mercies, give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made.*

*We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.*

*And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.*



**Holy - Week One**  
June 7, 2020

### **Introduction**

Most of us connect the word “holy” to the concept to moral behavior. When thought of in this way, holiness is mostly defined by the absence of something - namely, sin or impurity - rather than the presence of something.

The Hebrew word that is often translated “holy” is the word **Qadosh**.

This word first appears in Genesis 2:3, "So God blessed the seventh day and **hallowed** it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation."(NRSV)

The first thing called holy in the scriptures is the sabbath day because it is set apart.

The second time *qadosh* appears is in Exodus 3:1-6 In this story, the presence of God is so unique and powerful that it makes the ground around his presence holy.

### **Holy Defined**

So, what does it mean to be holy? Set apart (as in the Sabbath day from creation) & unique (as in the presence of God that radiates out from the burning bush and makes the ground holy). Holiness is a biblical word that means "unique and set apart."

The first time God is called holy is Exodus 15:11,  
"Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods?  
Who is like you, majestic in holiness,  
awesome in splendor, doing wonders?"

"There is no one holy like the LORD; there is no one besides you." -1 Samuel 2:2

Calling God holy is a way of recognizing his unique character and role. He is the creator and author of life; the Divine First Cause and as such, is unique, powerful, beautiful and good. It turns out, holiness is not just the absence of sin or impurity, but the presence of beauty, power, and goodness.

God is like the sun.

God is uniquely holy, but other things can be holy as well!  
Throughout the biblical narrative....

-People are called holy in Deuteronomy 7:6 (For you are a people holy to the Lord your God)

-Places are called holy in Ezekiel 42:13 (locations in the temple)

-Things are called holy in Exodus 40:1-10 (instructions to consecrate things in the Temple)

-Time is called holy in Leviticus 23:1-2 (speaking about festivals)

## **Holiness Invites Us**

Like the sun, God's holiness is meant to be shared.

God's holiness doesn't distance us from God, but invites us to experience and share in the beauty, goodness, and life-giving force of God.

This series is a journey through the biblical story of discovering how God's people are invited to participate in His holiness.

Holiness IS NOT just an ethic. It is the radiant beauty of God and an invitation for us to participate in God's character.