Reflection for Thursday
Reading. The Book of Micah.
Micah 6. 1-8.

1. Listen to what the LORD says: "Stand up, plead your case before the
mountains; let the hills hear what you have to say.
2. Hear, O mountains, the LORD's accusation; listen, you everlasting
foundations of the earth. For the LORD has a case against this people;
God is lodging a charge against Israel.
3. "My people, what have I done to you? How have I burdened you?
Answer me.
4. I brought you up out of Egypt and redeemed you from the land of
slavery. I sent Moses to lead you, also Aaron and Miriam.
5. My people remember what Balak king of Moab counselled and what
Balaam son of Beor answered. Remember [your journey] from
Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the righteous acts of the LORD."
6. With what shall I come before the LORD and bow down before the
exalted God? Shall I come before God with burnt offerings, with
calves a year old?
7. Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand
rivers of oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit
of my body for the sin of my soul?
8. God has showed you, O human, what is good. And what does the
LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk
humbly with your God.

https://youtu.be/MFEUEcylwLc

Book of Micah is the sixth of the 12 books of the Hebrew Minor Prophets. The
name Micah means ‘who is like God’. According to the superscription, Micah
was a Judaean prophet active during the last half of the 8th century BCE, so
was a contemporary of the prophet Isaiah. The book is a compilation of
materials some of which come from a this period and some considerably later
than Micah’s time. The book is composed of seven chapters and is similar in
many ways to the Book of Amos. It is divided into two sections: (1) judgments
against Judah and Jerusalem (chapters 1–3); and (2) promises of restoration for
Judah and judgments against other nations (chapters 4–7). The promises for
restoration indicate influence from the post exilic Temple cult in their
nationalistic emphasis of the glory of Jerusalem and the Temple as the centre
of the world.
Micah’s prophesies are directed against those he considers idolaters, those who oppress the poor, priests and prophets who use their profession for financial gain, and leaders who pervert God’s call for equity and justice. In what is probably the best-known verse from Micah, the prophet proclaims what is necessary for a relationship between God and humanity; “and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Amos 6. 8). In this verse, Micah summarises the key message of the prophets Amos, Hosea, and Isaiah and speaks not just to Israel but to us as well. These prophets call us to look at the injustices in our own societies and to expose them for what they are.

Prayer.

Loving God give us eyes to see the injustice around us, the will and energy to challenge it and the wisdom to find new ways of being together in you. Amen
