

AUDIO RETREAT

Lenten Landscapes 2023 Week Four | The River Jordon



When we arrive at an unknown river, we cannot tell how deep it is. Are there times you have come to a place in your life where you must cross to the unknown? Did you pause to consider how deep the crossing might be? How difficult was it to take that first step? What helped you get across?

As you go through the week ahead, pay attention to the ways you encounter water – as you wash or drink, in the landscape, or falling as rain. In what way might these speak to you of baptism?

The image below is titled 'Swing Low, Sweet Chariot' and is by a black American artist, William H Johnson. What does this image say to you? Is this the River Jordan? – or the River Ohio, boundary between southern states where slavery was legal and the northern ones of freedom?



William H. Johnson, *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot*, ca. 1944, oil on paperboard, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Gift of the Harmon Foundation, 1983.95.52

Some Scripture for reflection

Passages on which we reflect in the audio include the following:

Joshua 3 – the Israelites cross to the Promised Land
2 Kings 2: 1-14 – Elijah and Elisha cross the Jordan
2 Kings 5: 1-19 – the story of Naaman
Mark 1:9-11; Matthew 3: 13 – 17 – The Baptism of Jesus

You might also like to reflect on other Scriptural verses about rivers:

Isaiah 35: 5-7
Isaiah 43: 19
Acts 8: 36-39
Revelation 22:1