

THIS WE AFFIRM™

Living Lectionary Scriptural Path following Darkwood Brew:

Affirmation 1:

Week 1: John 14:1-7

Week 2: Deuteronomy 32:7-12

Week 3: Deuteronomy 6:4-13

Week 4: John 10:11-18

Week 5: Acts 17:22-31

Week 6: Colossians 1:13-20

Corresponding Darkwood Brew Series: *The Faith of Jesus In A Pluralistic World*

Link: <https://darkwoodbrew.org/product/faith-of-jesus-series-guided-episodes/>

This We Affirm Subscriber? Listen to the first episode for free by clicking here: <https://thisweaffirm.org/storeview/VG1wUIBRPT0=>

Series Description: In the Gospel of John, Jesus says, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” Can we take these words seriously without denying the existence of other paths God may create for humanity? The future of Christianity and civilization may depend upon our answer. In this challenging series Dr. Eric Elnes explores how this question is being answered in surprising and hopeful ways.

Featured Guests: Tim Anderson, Mark Swanson, Samir Selmanovic, Brian McLaren, Diana L. Eck, Fatemeh Keshavarz, Leong Seow, and Allen Hilton

Affirmation 2:

Week 1: 1 Kings 19:9-16

Week 2: Romans 8:26-30; 38-39

Week 3: Romans 12:2-12

Week 4: Mark 5:24-34

Week 5: Psalm 46:1-11

Week 6: John 5:1-9

Corresponding Darkwood Brew Series: *“Listen! Hearing that ‘Still, Small Voice’ and Finding Your Own”*

Link: <https://darkwoodbrew.org/product/listen-series-guided-episodes/>

This We Affirm Subscriber? Listen to the first episode for free by clicking here: <https://thisweaffirm.org/storeview/VG1wUIBRPT0=>

Series Description: “Was it the Holy Spirit talking or the pizza I just ate?” asks author Phyllis Tickle, reflecting the appropriate skepticism any of us feel when we hear people claim they have been divinely guided. Yet just because there is reason for skepticism does not mean the Spirit is silent. Join Rev. Eric Elnes Ph.D. as he leads this seven-part series exploring how the voice of God speaks to us, what we can do to strengthen the connection, and ways we can discern the Spirit’s “voice” amidst the static.

Featured Guests: Yvette Flunder, Jack Levison, Carl McColman, Bruce Epperly, Phileena Heuertz and Doug Pagitt

Affirmation 3:

Week 1: Genesis 1:1-5

Week 2: Genesis 1:6-8

Week 3: Genesis 1:9-13

Week 4: Genesis 1:14-19

Week 5: Genesis 1:20-23

Week 6: Genesis 1:24-31; 2:1-4a

Corresponding Darkwood Brew Series: *On Earth As It Is In Heaven*

Link: <https://darkwoodbrew.org/product/on-earth-series-guided-episodes/>

This We Affirm Subscriber? Listen to the first episode for free by clicking here: <https://thisweaffirm.org/storeview/VG1wUIBRPT0=>

Series Description: Are we blessing the Earth or destroying it? Modern science and ancient Celtic Christianity both suggest a better way of being – exercising an ethic of stewardship, not dominion. Including in-depth interviews with John Philip Newell, this provocative seven-week Darkwood Brew series is a toolkit for anyone interested in healing the Earth now and leaving behind a better place for generations to come. Rev. Eric Elnes, Ph.D., leads the discussion with guests who include: John Philip Newell, Bruce Epperly, Catherine Foote, Kit Evans, Sonsiris Tamayo-Dewitt, and Meighan Pritchard. While this series stands on its own, it is a perfect accompaniment for those reading John Phillip Newell’s book, *Listening for the Heartbeat of God: A Celtic Spirituality*.

Featured Guests: John Philip Newell, Bruce Epperly, Catherine Foote, Kit Evans, Sonsiris Tamayo-Dewitt, and Meighan Pritchard

Affirmation 4:

Week 1: Luke 4:13-21

Week 2: Luke 4:1-13

Week 3: Matthew 25:24-30

Week 4: Acts 16:6-15

Week 5: Corinthians 12:12-19

Week 6: Luke 15:11-32

Corresponding Darkwood Brew Series: *Drawn In: Living Out the Creative Life with God*

Link: <https://darkwoodbrew.org/product/drawn-in-series-guided-episodes/>

This We Affirm Subscriber? Listen to the first episode for free by clicking here: <https://thisweaffirm.org/storeview/VG1wUIBRPT0=>

Series Description: Brian McLaren calls Troy Bronsink's book, *Drawn In: A Creative Process for Artists, Activists, and Jesus Followers*, a "fresh vision of God (that) ...draws us (rather than drives us) into a new way of being." In this six-part series featuring Bronsink, we explore how God's rhythms are manifest in creative life that is as sincere, vibrant, and artful as it is scriptural.

Featured Guest: Troy Bronsink

Affirmation 5:

Week 1: Acts 11:1-18

Week 2: 1 Corinthians 7:10-15

Week 3: Isaiah 1:10-20

Week 4: Romans 3:20-31

Week 5: Matthew 25:14-30

Week 6: 1 Corinthians 13:1-8, 13

Corresponding Darkwood Brew Series: *For the Love of God: A Conversation about the Bible and Homosexuality*

Link: <https://darkwoodbrew.org/product/for-the-love-of-god-series-guided-episodes/>

This We Affirm Subscriber? Listen to the first episode for free by clicking here: <https://thisweaffirm.org/storeview/VG1wUIBRPT0=>

Series Description: The headlines are filled with stories about gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people. The discourse about their struggles and place in society ranges from polite to incendiary. This important and meaningful six-part Darkwood Brew series, lead by Rev. Eric Elnes Ph.D., cuts through the media clutter and focuses on what the Bible really has to say, or not say, about orientation, sexuality and God's love.

Featured Guests: Gene Robinson, Sue Fulton, Justin Lee, Jack Levison, James Forbes, Jacqueline Lapsely, and Bruce Van Blair

Affirmation 6:

Week 1: Luke 7:36-50

Week 2: John 20:11-18

Week 3: Matthew 9:9-17

Week 4: Luke 19:1-10

Week 5: John 4:31-42

Week 6: Matthew 23:1-4, 13-15, 23-28.

Corresponding Darkwood Brew Series: *Hookers, Looters and Cheats: The Constant Companions of Jesus*

Link: <https://darkwoodbrew.org/product/hookers-looters-and-cheats-series-guided-episodes/>

This We Affirm Subscriber? Listen to the first episode for free by clicking here: <https://thisweaffirm.org/storeview/VG1wUIBRPT0=>

Series Description: Who is in and who is out? One of the most controversial aspects of Jesus' ministry was his radical inclusion of people deemed unethical, unclean, unwanted and unworthy by the religious establishment of his day. Lead by Dr. Eric Elnes, this six-part series explores what we have to learn from the uncomfortable people Jesus hung out with.

Featured Guests: Steve Knight, Rev. Bruce Van Blair, Rev. Fred Plumer, Chris Heuertz, Dr. Emilie Townes, & Dr. Jana Riess

Affirmation 7:

Week 1: Amos 2:6-8

Week 2: Amos 3:1-2, 6-8

Week 3: Amos 5:21-27

Week 4: Amos 7:7-13

Week 5: Amos 5:6-11

Week 6: Amos 9:7-15

Corresponding Darkwood Brew Series: *Prophetically Incorrect: Amos and the Fine Art of Uncomfortable Truth*

Link: <https://darkwoodbrew.org/product/prophetically-incorrect-series-guided-episodes/>

This We Affirm Subscriber? Listen to the first episode for free by clicking here: <https://thisweaffirm.org/storeview/VG1wUJBRPT0=>

Series Description: The book of Amos contains wisdom surprisingly poignant in our own day. Join host Eric Elnes and series guest Frank Schaeffer for a discussion of prophecy, politics, purpose and our responsibility in all of it.

Featured Guest: Frank Schaeffer

Affirmation 8:

Week 1: Exodus 36:2-7

Week 2: John 3:1-10

Week 3: Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13

Week 4: John 14:1-9a

Week 5: John 20:19-25

Week 6: Psalm 148:1-10

Corresponding Darkwood Brew Series: *The Great Convergence*

Link: <https://darkwoodbrew.org/product/the-great-convergence/>

This We Affirm Subscriber? Listen to the first episode for free by clicking here: <https://thisweaffirm.org/storeview/VG1wUJBRPT0=>

Series Description: In the past few decades, a new historical trend has been quietly playing out. Refugees from Christian liberalism and conservatism have been finding each other and tearing down old divides in a powerful Great Convergence. This convergence isn't a watered-down attempt to find "middle ground" for the sake of getting along. Instead, it is a dynamic and sometimes chaotic journey through a new wilderness, where those alienated or estranged from their native traditions on the Left and the Right are drawn to find ancient Biblical faith that works in the modern world. This eight-part series, lead by Rev. Eric Elnes, Ph.D., finds deep meaning and hope in what this unlikely group of fellow travelers is learning along the way.

Featured Guests: Rabbi Aryeh Azriel, Ani Zonneveld, Melvin Bray, Michael Camp, Phyllis Tickle, Bruce Reyes-Chow, Bruce Van Blair, Carol Howard Merritt, and Cameron Trimble

Affirmation 9:

Week 1: Genesis 1:26-31

Week 2: Genesis 3:14-24

Week 3: Genesis 4:1-16

Week 4: Genesis 9:1-17

Week 5: Genesis 11:1-9

Week 6: Romans 5:12-21

Corresponding Darkwood Brew Series: *Failing, Falling and Flying: Genesis Stories of Original Grace*

Link: <https://darkwoodbrew.org/product/failing-series-guided-episodes/>

This We Affirm Subscriber? Listen to the first episode for free by clicking here: <https://thisweaffirm.org/storeview/VG1wUIBRPT0=>

Series Description: While many Christians turn to Genesis as proof that we are born in “original sin,” Rev. Eric Elnes Ph.D. asserts that each of the major stories of Genesis’ first 11 chapters (commonly known as the Primordial History) directly contradict this claim. Put away your flannel-graphs because this study of Genesis is anything but one-dimensional! By examining the Primordial History in depth, we find a striking pattern: humanity is marked by “original sin” AND by “original blessing,” but DEFINED by neither. We are defined by Original Grace. Understanding the stories this way fundamentally challenge notion of salvation being a “fire-escape” from punishment for “original sin,” and offers a biblically-grounded vision of a God who loves humanity beyond its wildest imagination.

Featured Guests: Beth Johnson, Chip Bouzard, Terence Fretheim, Reinhilde Ruprecht, Nadia Bolz-Weber, and Kevin Miller

Affirmation 10:

Week 1: Job 38:1-11

Week 2: Psalm 8

Week 3: Psalm 42

Week 4: Luke 6:27-36

Week 5: Psalm 111

Week 6: 1 Corinthians 12:1-7

Corresponding Darkwood Brew Series: *Evolving Universe Evolving Faith*

Link: <https://darkwoodbrew.org/product/evolving-universe-series-guided-episodes/>

This We Affirm Subscriber? Listen to the first episode for free by clicking here: <https://thisweaffirm.org/storeview/VG1wUIBRPT0=>

Series Description: Do recent scientific theories and discoveries take God right out of the equation? Or maybe, somehow, God can be found at the intersection of faith and science. This seven-part series, created in partnership with the Adler Planetarium in Chicago and the Clergy Letter Project, explores the amazing ways that science can help us re-imagine the universe and our place within it.

Featured Guests: Gayle Woloschak, Owen Gingerich, Lea Schweitz, Michael Dowd, Ian Lynch, Cynthia Astle, and Leslie Murrell

Affirmation 11:

Week 1: Matthew 11:28-30

Week 2: Luke 10:38-42; Thessalonians 3:6-13

Week 3: Psalm 23

Week 4: Luke 12:29-34

Week 5: Ecclesiastes 3:9-13

Week 6: Ecclesiastes 3:9-13

Corresponding Darkwood Brew Series: *Busy: Reconnecting to an Unhurried God*

Link: <https://darkwoodbrew.org/product/busy-series-guided-episodes/>

This We Affirm Subscriber? Listen to the first episode for free by clicking here: <https://thisweaffirm.org/storeview/VG1wUIBRPT0=>

Series Description: Mahatma Gandhi said, “There is more to life than increasing its speed.” If it seems like the world keeps moving faster, and moving you along with it, there another way! This six-part series, led by Rev. Eric Elnes, Ph.D., explores the personal and spiritual benefits that come with slowing things down and aligning ourselves with God’s time. You’ll feel better, connect more fully, realize what’s important, and maybe even get more done. Note: Marcia McFee’s *Worship Design Studio* has produced a full set of worship materials for this series, available elsewhere on this website or at www.worshipdesignstudio.com.

Featured Guests: Pam Wilhelms, Todd Wyndward, Jennifer Kottler, Cecil Prescod, Phileena Heuertz, and Marcia McFee

Affirmation 12:

Week 1: Exodus 3:1-12

Week 2: Matthew 13:44-46; 21:28-32

Week 3: Exodus 13:17-22

Week 4: Exodus 3:1-14

Week 5: Philippians 2:1-11

Week 6: Romans 7:14, 8:6

Corresponding Darkwood Brew Series: *Vocatio: Discovering the Work of your Soul in the Soul of Your Work*

Link: <https://darkwoodbrew.org/product/vocatio-series-guided-episodes/>

This We Affirm Subscriber? Listen to the first episode for free by clicking here: <https://thisweaffirm.org/storeview/VG1wUIBRPT0=>

Series Description: “*Vocatio*” refers to a calling into our life’s work. This series features people from a variety of professions reflecting on their sense of “call,” how they responded to it, and what it means both for them and those they interact with and influence. Explore the ways that finding your “sweet spot” – the work in your life that brings you most fully alive – is a deep spiritual practice with ancient Christian roots, and possibly even an accelerant for the work of the Spirit in our world today. Because this series explores *vocatio* through the lens of each of the seven “Dark Wood gifts” identified in Dr. Elnes’ book, [Gifts of the Dark Wood: Seven Blessings for Soulful Skeptics \(and Other Wanderers\)](#), it is a great follow-up to Darkwood Brew’s “Gifts of the Dark Wood” series, or accompaniment to those reading the book. This series stands great on its own, too.

Featured Guests: Tracey Halvorson (financial planner), Dyson DeMara (wine maker), Scott Griessel (filmmaker), Melanie Elnes (nurse), Bob Ravenscroft (jazz musician), Marsha Bonner (HR director), and Clayton Chapman (chef)