

**Who is God? *Take-home questions***  
**March 17, 2019, Second Sunday in Lent**  
**United Parish in Brookline**

*In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.*

Genesis 1:1-2

*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.*

*Be still and know that I am God.* Psalm 46: 1 & 10

*God said to Moses, 'I am who I am.' And said further, 'Thus you shall say to the Israelites,*

*"I am has sent me to you."* Exodus 3:14

Who is God?

Who first taught you about God?

What was your understanding?

What were your first images of God? *Feel free to draw or write.*

How have these images and understanding been helpful? How have they been unhelpful?

The Bible has many ways of describing God:

as Creator (Genesis 1 & 2), as a friend of the family (stories of the families in Genesis), as liberator and lawgiver (Exodus), as Savior, Ethicist, Healer, one Great Love (Gospels), as a Spirit that connects us all (John 3, Acts 2), as light (1 John 1:5), as love (1 John 4:16),

as a mother (Psalm 131:2, Isaiah 49:15, 66:13)

and as mother animals (Hosea 13:8, Deuteronomy 32:11-12, Matthew 23:37 and Luke 13:34)

What ways are helpful for you to think about God? Why?

### Your evolving notion of God

What events, influences, or people helped shape and re-shape your perception of who God is?

What key moments or experiences throughout your life have helped to broaden your understanding and deepen your relationship with God?

and/or

How would you like to expand or deepen your image of God?

### Exercises to try this week

If you were going to teach a child or an alien being to planet Earth about God, how would you do it? What would you include? What would you exclude?

What questions would you ask them?

### God moments

What would be the qualities of a “God moment” for you, times when you see God at work in the world around you?

At the end of each day, record 1-3 times when you noticed God at work in your daily life. Try talking to God every day, as honestly and directly as possible.

Write a letter to God expressing any doubts, worries, fears, hopes, joys.

Then write a letter back to yourself, imagining how God would respond to you.