

## Revelation 7:9-12 (11/17/19)

*Please sit near the front of the lectern side of the sanctuary. When reading, please speak slowly and loudly enough to be heard by all in the sanctuary. Once done reading, you may be seated back in the congregation. At the end of the worship service, please return your black folder and reading to the church office.*

**READER: Please move to the lectern during the Music for Reflection and be seated. When the music is finished approach the lectern and say:**

*In this reading from Revelation 7, the prophet paints an image of the goal of humanity: countless people from every nation, each bearing a piece of God's image, praising the Spirit of Love harmoniously in their own languages. Hear now the words of the prophet St. John of Patmos:*

After that, I saw before me an immense crowd without number, from every nation, tribe, people and language. They stood in front of the throne and the Lamb, dressed in long white robes and holding palm branches. And they cried out in a loud voice, "Life flows from God, who sits on the throne, and of the Lamb!"

All the angels who were encircling the throne, as well as the elders and the four living creatures, prostrated themselves before the throne. They worshiped God with these words:

"Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and strength be to our God forever and ever! Amen!"

**(Short Pause, then...)**

**One:** This is one of our sacred stories,

**Many:** Thanks be to God.

## Genesis 11:1-9 (11/17/19)

*Please sit near the front of the lectern side of the sanctuary. When reading, please speak slowly and loudly enough to be heard by all in the sanctuary. Once done reading, you may be seated back in the congregation. At the end of the worship service, please return your black folder and reading to the church office.*

**READER: Please move to the lectern during the middle Hymn following the Prayer and be seated. When the Hymn is over please say:**

*The Hebrew Scripture reading is from Genesis 11. This story is an origin myth, an ancient literary form poetically answering the question, “How did things come to be as they are?” This etiology addresses the question: Why do the nations speak different languages? It begins:*

Throughout the earth, people spoke the same language and used the same words. Now, as they moved eastward, they found a valley in the land of Shinar and settled there.

They all said to one another, “Let us make bricks and bake them in the fire.” They used bricks as building stones, and bitumen for mortar.

Then they said, “Let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top can reach to heaven. Let us make a name for ourselves, to keep us from being scattered over the face of the whole earth.”

YHWH came down to see the city and the tower these mortals had built. “They are a single people with a single language,” YHWH said. “And this is but the beginning of their undertakings! Now there will be nothing too hard for them to do. Come, let us go down and baffle their language so that they can no longer understand one another.” So YHWH scattered them over the face of the earth, and they had to stop building the city.

It was named Babel, because YHWH made humans babble different languages throughout the world. It was from there that YHWH scattered them over the whole earth.

**(Short Pause, then...)**

This is one of our sacred stories,

**Thanks be to God.**