**Old Testament Lesson (NRSV) *Isaiah 43: 1-7*****Derek Waters 43**But now, this is what the Lord says—  
    he who created you, Jacob,  
    he who formed you, Israel:  
“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
    I have summoned you by name; you are mine.  
**2**When you pass through the waters,  
    I will be with you;  
and when you pass through the rivers,  
    they will not sweep over you.  
When you walk through the fire,  
    you will not be burned;  
    the flames will not set you ablaze.  
**3**For I am the Lord your God,  
    the Holy One of Israel, your Savior;  
I give Egypt for your ransom,  
    Cush and Seba in your stead.  
**4**Since you are precious and honored in my sight,  
    and because I love you,  
I will give people in exchange for you,  
    nations in exchange for your life.  
**5**Do not be afraid, for I am with you;  
    I will bring your children from the east  
    and gather you from the west.  
**6**I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’  
    and to the south, ‘Do not hold them back.’  
Bring my sons from afar  
    and my daughters from the ends of the earth—  
**7**everyone who is called by my name,  
    whom I created for my glory,  
    whom I formed and made.”

**New Testament Lesson (**NRSV**) *Matthew 2:16-23*** **Reverend Averill**

**16**When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. **17**Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

**18**“A voice was heard in Ramah,  
    wailing and loud lamentation,  
Rachel weeping for her children;  
    she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

### The Return from Egypt

**19**When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, **20**“Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” **21**Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. **22**But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. **23**There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazarene.”