

## The Fodder & The Ladder of Abstraction

- \* First, a moment on S.I. Hayakawa's "Ladder of Abstraction"
  
- \* Note the church season, the meteorological season.
  - ◇ A Holy Day or sequence of weeks in church calendar ...
    - What marks it in the liturgy, by presence or absence? In worship? In the sanctuary?  
In the parishioners? In the part of the day(s) spent outside the church building?
  
  - ◇ Ordinary Time ...
    - What marks it in the liturgy, by presence or absence? In worship? In the sanctuary?  
In the parishioners? In the part of the day(s) spent outside the church building?
  
- \* Read (aloud) the sermon and/or lectionary text(s).
  - What curiosities stand out to you by way of odd details? By way of beautiful phrases or images?
    - By way of the people that show up in the passage: How are they opposites to and/or echoes of us--our hopes or flaws or habits or anxieties?
  
- \* List the urgencies of your congregation & the larger community, of your country & the larger world.
  - ◇ Work in specific pictures.
    - What do you see when you try to summon up images of the people whose joy and/or suffering you want your prayer to name?
    - What concrete things might be objective correlatives in their stories?
      - \* With a tangential moment on the Objective Correlative
        - What details of sound and texture might you notice were you to keep these people for whom you're praying company today?

✧ Work in big patterns.

What needs, what worries seem to proliferate in the church, in the world?

What hopes, what beauties do we hold in common with people from other places, cultures, faiths?



## The Form & The Escalator of Transitions

\* First, a moment about the Escalator of Transitions.

\* Strategy One: Riff on a tried-and-true structure.

\* Strategy Two: Sort the fodder into bins (and then, maybe, bento boxes).

## Works Consulted

Doyle, Brian. *A Book of Uncommon Prayer: 100 Celebrations of the Miracle and the Muddle of the Ordinary*. Notre Dame: Ave Maria Press, 2014.

Hayakawa, Samuel Ichiye and Alan Hayakawa. *Language in Thought and Action*. Fifth Edition. San Diego: Harcourt, 1991.

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**Calvin Symposium on Worship 2019**

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Wood, James, ed. *The Book of Common Prayer*. New York: Penguin Classics, 2012.