

05-29-22 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

“Jesus does not call for doctrinal unity, organizational unity, or political unity...this prayer is for unity that grows out of the *love* of God, received and shared among his followers, leading to an experienced *unity in love* between Jesus and his followers, and with the one from whom Christ comes.”

- Peter J. B. Carman



John 17:20-26

Questions for Reflection —

- What does it look like for Jesus to be the Lord of your life? In what ways do you fall short of that intention? What else competes with your allegiance to follow Jesus? What are the idols in your life that need to be unmasked? What do you need in order to be able to relinquish those idols?

- When have you had an experience of deep unity with someone who is very different from you? What enabled that connection to be made? How is unity different from conformity or uniformity? How can unity be maintained and still allow for various differences? What would that mean for our congregation? For our denomination? For the community in which you live?

- What do you think Christian unity should look like in the life of a congregation? What obstacles might inhibit this kind of unity? In what ways does our congregation manifest unity in our life together? In what ways do we fall short? What do we need in order to become more fully the beloved community together? What can you personally do to enhance the sense of unity in the life of our congregation?

Daily Household Prayer

Great and mighty God, we praise you that Jesus Christ has ascended to rule at your right hand. We rejoice before the throne of his power and peace, for he has unmasked idols claiming our allegiance. We thank you that he alone is Lord of our lives. By your Spirit, give us freedom to love with his love, and to embrace the world with his compassion. Accept the offering of our lives, that we may obey your commands to serve in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.