

07-03-22 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

“The essence of the Christian message extends beyond any particular time or space...The life-changing power of the gospel may be expressed in a wide variety of languages, an infinite number of places, by many different types of teachers...and yet at the center is the hope offered to every one of us in the name of Jesus Christ.”

- Richard H. Shaffer Jr



Galatians 6:1-10, 14 ✠ Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Questions for Reflection —

- What are your hopes for the future for yourself, your family and loved ones, our congregation, our country, the world? What is the cynicism that endangers those hopes? What do you need in order to claim the hope offered through Jesus and live into that hope? How do you share that hope with those around you? How can we as a congregation be an agent of hope to the surrounding community and to the world? What does it mean for us to take the good news of Jesus to the world?

- What kinds of burdens do you think are being borne by people with whom you have regular contact? What might help you to be more aware of the burdens carried by others? What would it look like for you to assist others in carrying their burdens? What does it mean for us as a congregation to work for the good of all, for those within our congregation as well as for the people of the communities outside our walls?

- What does it mean for you to respect those who differ from you? What does it look like within a congregation for differences—cultural, ethnic, socio-economic, political—to be respected? How can we make room for multiple perspectives? How do we build bridges of understanding across various differences and grow to become a more loving community?

Daily Household Prayer

Gracious God, as we celebrate the Independence Day of our nation we pause to express our profound gratitude for your many blessings to us. Give us the courage to find ways to make our nation more temperate and more just. Help us excel in developing generous spirits to aid the needy peoples of the earth. Protect us, as citizens of this land, from succumbing to simplistic solutions to our problems; protect us from cynicism about the future and from denying the power of hope. Help us respect those who differ from us. Challenge us to take responsibility for the fabric of our life together and to work for justice. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.