

05-17-26 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

“We are called to function as parts of the Trinity, aspects of the same thing, different, but one in essence and in hope. That is what community really means. It doesn’t mean individuality is lost; differences make the whole what it is. But it does mean that we acknowledge our need for the other and acknowledge that we are somehow incomplete without the other.”

Derek Weber



John 17:1-11

Questions for Reflection —

- What does it mean to you that Jesus calls his followers to be one? What are the things that create division among God’s people? What does unity mean for our relationship(s) with other Christians, both within our denomination and in the broader ecumenical community? What might need to change for us to live more fully into God’s call for us to be one as followers of Jesus? How might God also be calling us to contribute to healing the division, conflict, and controversy presently rampant in larger society and the world?
- What do you see as the distinction between unity and uniformity? What do you celebrate about the diversity within our congregation? What does it mean for us to be a unified body of Christ as we continue to embrace diversity? How can we encourage the unique giftedness of each person among us? What practices might we cultivate in order to further foster a sense of unity even as we claim and honor individual uniqueness?
- How does knowing that Jesus prayed for all his followers across time affect your practice of prayer? What has been your experience of intercessory prayer--praying for others and/or having others pray for you? What are the challenges for you in engaging in intercessory prayer? How have such prayers influenced how you care for others and how you are cared for by others? For what people or situations do you most frequently pray? In what ways might God be nudging you to expand the focus of your prayers?

Daily Household Prayer

God and Creator of all humankind, Your Son Jesus Christ prayed that Your church might be one, even as You our God are one. May You renew our minds and rekindle Your love in our hearts, so that by the power of the Spirit, we might find the Oneness that You intend for us. God, may we recognize in Your Oneness our need for unity. God, may we recognize in your Three-ness, our need for community. God, may we recognize in your creativity, our need for diversity. God, may we recognize in Your Self, our need to love each other. Amen.