

10-04-26 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

“In this story from the Gospel of Matthew, the Jewish leaders wanted to keep God’s teachings only for themselves and their fellow Jews. Jesus’ teachings, however, were and are for everyone. The word of God and the teachings of Jesus are meant to be taken out of that ‘box’ and shared, not hoarded.”

Bethany Kurschner



Matthew 21:33-46

Questions for Reflection —

- What does it mean for Christians around the globe to be one body in Christ? What helps you feel connected to the worldwide family of God? What are your prayers for global Christianity? What does it look like to fully embrace the diversity of the global church? How has your own understanding of your faith deepened through encountering cultural expressions of faith and worship different from your own?
- When we celebrate Communion in our congregation what does it mean to you to say that there is room for everyone at God’s table? Who might possibly feel excluded? How might we continue to expand the boundaries and widen the circle across differences of age, gender, sexual orientation, nationality, ethnic background, political affiliation, socioeconomic status, etc.? What do you most appreciate about the diversity of our congregation? What does it mean for us to find unity in diversity? What are the challenges?
- What does it mean for you to make Jesus the cornerstone of your faith? What do you need in order to build a life of discipleship on the teachings and example of Jesus? What does it mean for Jesus to be the cornerstone of the life of our congregation? How can we make our faith the basis for all that we do as a congregation? What would it mean for Jesus’ teachings and example to undergird all that we undertake—not just our programs and ministries but also our meetings and our policies?

Daily Household Prayer

God of love, as we gather on this day, we are one with all your children in Christ around the world. In Asia and Australia and Pacific Islands, in Africa and Europe and South America, throughout North America and even at the poles, we are one body in Christ. We give thanks and we open our hearts to your Word, the Word of Love that comes to us in every language and tradition and community. Speak to us and bring us closer to your heart, in the name and Spirit of Christ. Amen.