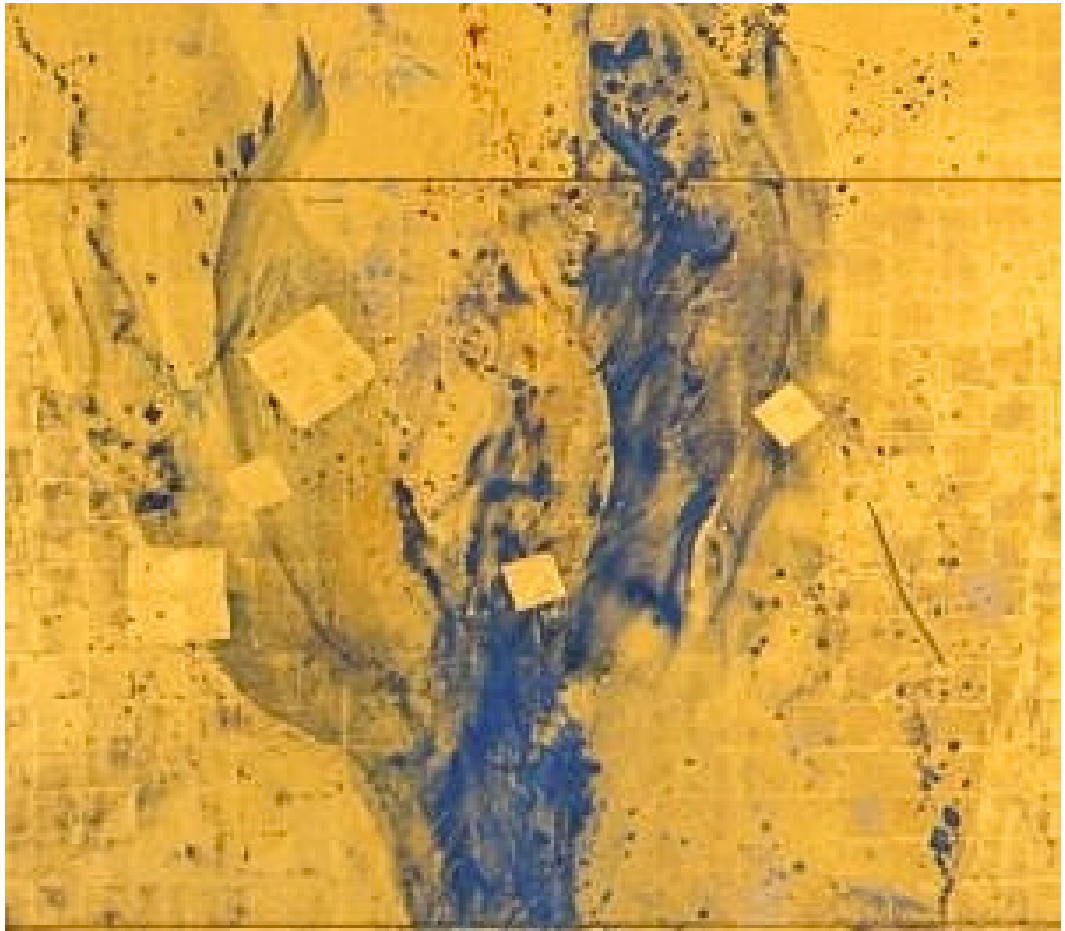


CHRIST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



# ABIDING IN *Total Christ*

A 5-WEEK JOURNEY



CHRIST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# ABIDING IN *Total Christ*

A 5-WEEK JOURNEY




# Preface

---

**Greetings in the Lord!** We're excited to walk through this devotional together as a church, with the goal of exalting Christ, whom we are called to grow up into as our Savior and Head. Here are a few things to help you navigate what follows:

- Each week, starting on Sunday, begins with the main text that is also preached in a sermon. Following Sunday, each day has a verse for you to read and meditate on, with a brief commentary, injunction to pray, and space to journal. We hope this format facilitates regular and dynamic devotion in the Lord.
- This guide is meant to be an introduction to our spirituality at CPC. We refer to it as “Total Christ,” a phrase which dates from the 4th century in a sermon by Augustine of Hippo: “the Word was made flesh, and dwelled among us; to that flesh is joined the church, and





there is made total Christ, both head and body.” It’s a spirituality that must be “caught” as well as “taught.” For more explicit teaching, you can find further explanations at [cpcnewhaven.org/our-spirituality](http://cpcnewhaven.org/our-spirituality).

- The first two elements – gospel-centered and missional – are the “meta-values” that both must inform all the rest if we are to experience the fullness of Christ. For example, if we want to experience Christ as our prophet, yet are not missional, then the gospel will not be understood and we will not expand our understanding and experience of Christ.

Remember, the goal of all of this is that we – individually and communally – may experience the fullness of Christ.

*Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*

*Ephesians 3:20-21*



# *Week One* Gospel-Centered

The gospel is literally the “good news” about the grace accomplished in Christ and received by faith alone. It is a vigorous announcement of what Jesus has done that has changed the course of history and radically altered our relationship to God.

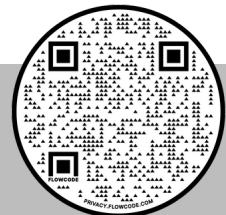
# Romans 3:21–31

Sermon | “The Key to Everything: Being Gospel-Centered”

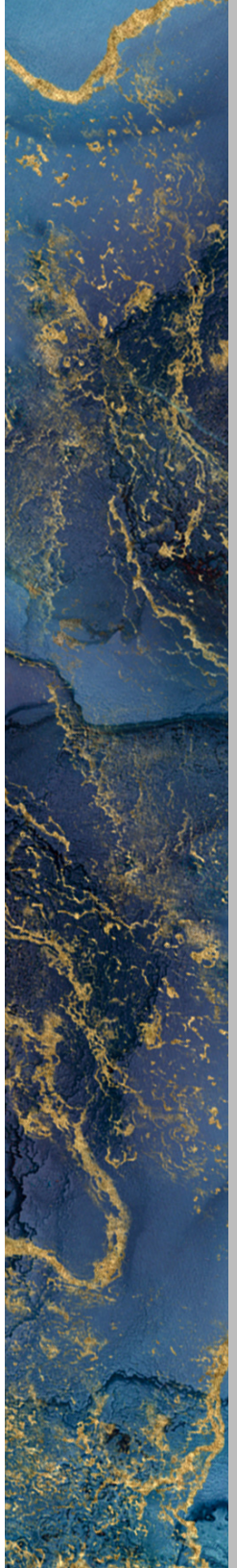
---

[21] But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—[22] the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: [23] for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, [24] and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, [25] whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. [26] It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

[27] Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. [28] For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. [29] Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, [30] since God is one—who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. [31] Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law. (ESV)



*Sermon Notes*



*Monday*

---

*Read Romans 5:1-11*

We made no contribution to our salvation, for dead people cannot raise themselves. Pray for deep appreciation of the grace of the gospel.

*Respond*

*Tuesday*

---

*Read Galatians 2:15-21*

The transformation that the gospel affects is total, such that now my whole life is viewed as in Christ. Pray for the freedom of knowing our old selves and demand for performance has died, and for the boldness to live a new life in Jesus. Meditate on v. 20, repeating it over and over in your heart.

*Respond*

Wednesday

---


**Read Matthew 5:1-10**

Lest you think only Paul exhorts us to be gospel-centered, we see here that it's fundamental to Jesus' ministry as well. It would be impossible to live out these beautiful beatitudes without the grace of the gospel. Pray for a character that Jesus would call "blessed."

*"These Beatitudes are not a description of offices; they are a description of character. There is no one in the kingdom of God who is not poor in spirit. We cannot be filled until we are first empty. Conviction must always precede conversion; the gospel of Christ condemns before it releases. It is nothing, then, that we can produce; it is nothing that we can do in ourselves. It is just this tremendous awareness of our utter nothingness as we come face-to-face with God. How does one therefore become 'poor in spirit'? The answer is that you do not look at yourself or begin by trying to do things to yourself. The way to become poor in spirit is to look at God. Read this Book about Him, read His law, look at what He expects from us, contemplate standing before Him." - Martyn Lloyd-Jones*

**Respond**





*“There is no one in the kingdom of God who is not poor in spirit. We cannot be filled until we are first empty...The way to become poor in spirit is to look at God. Read this Book about Him, read His law, look at what He expects from us, contemplate standing before Him.”*

---

MARTYN LLOYD-JONES



Thursday

---

**Read Galatians 2:11-14**

You see here specifically that being “gospel-centered” does not only include focusing on justification by faith alone, but includes a life and church that seeks in everything to walk “in step with the truth of the gospel.” Pray for a fully integrated life that is consistent with the gospel and for illumination into what parts of your life are not yet infused with the gospel.

*“Paul is showing that we never “get beyond the gospel” in our Christian life to something more “advanced”. The gospel is not the first “step” in a “stairway” of truths, rather, it is more like the “hub” in a “wheel” of truth. The gospel is not just the A-B-C’s, but the A to Z of Christianity. The gospel is not just the minimum required doctrine necessary to enter the kingdom, but the way we make all progress in the kingdom. We are not justified by the gospel and then sanctified by obedience, but the gospel is the way we grow (Gal. 3:1-3) and are renewed (Col. 1:6).” - Timothy Keller*

**Respond**

*Friday*

---

***Read Romans 6:1-14***

Free grace is never a license to sin, but the beginning of a whole new life. Pray for the Holy Spirit's power to put to death your sin and be clothed with Christ.

*"All those that are justified, God vouchsafeth, in and for his only Son Jesus Christ, to make partakers of the grace of adoption, by which they are taken into the number, and enjoy the liberties and privileges of the children of God, have his name put upon them, receive the Spirit of adoption, have access to the throne of grace with boldness, are enabled to cry, Abba, Father, are pitied, protected, provided for, and chastened by him, as by a father: yet never cast off, but sealed to the day of redemption; and inherit the promises, as heirs of everlasting salvation."*

- WCF 12

*Respond*

*Saturday*

---

*Read James 5:16 and Psalm 51*

*"He who is alone with his sin is utterly alone. The [supposedly] "pious" fellowship permits no one to be a sinner. So everybody must conceal his sin from himself and from the fellowship. We dare not be sinners. Many Christians are unthinkably horrified when a real sinner is suddenly discovered among the righteous. So we remain alone with our sin, living in lies and hypocrisy. The fact is that we are sinners! But it is the grace of the Gospel, which is so hard for the pious to understand, that it confronts us with the truth and says: You are a sinner, a great, desperate sinner; now come, as the sinner that you are, to God who loves you. God has come to you to save the sinner. Be glad! This message is liberation through truth. You can hide nothing from God. The mask you wear before men will do you no good before Him...You do not have to go on lying to yourself and your brothers, as if you were without sin; you can dare to be a sinner." - Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

*"Without a knowledge of our extreme sin, the payment of the cross seems trivial and does not electrify or transform. But without a knowledge of Christ's completely satisfying life and death, the knowledge of sin would crush us or move us to deny and repress it. Take away either the knowledge of sin or the knowledge of grace and people's lives are not changed. They will be crushed by the moral law or run from it angrily. So the gospel is not that we go from being irreligious to being religious, but that we realize that our reasons for both our religiosity and our irreligiosity were essentially the same and essentially wrong. We were seeking to be our own Saviors and thereby keeping control of our own life. When we trust in Christ as our Redeemer, we turn from trusting either self-determination or salvation--from either moralism or hedonism." - Timothy Keller*

*Respond*



## *Week Two* **Missional**

If your Bible has a section heading in Acts 2 between verses 41 and 42, cross it out! The way the church responds in verse 42 (and following) shows that the response to the gospel births the church and that the church manifests the truths of the gospel. Pray for a clear living out of the gospel in community.

# Acts 2:22–47

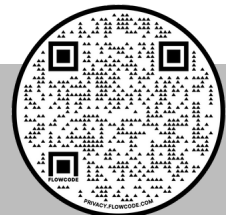
Sermon | “The Identity of the Church: Being Missional”

---

[22] “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—[23] this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. [24] God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. [25] For David says concerning him,

“‘I saw the Lord always before me,  
for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken;  
[26] therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;  
my flesh also will dwell in hope.  
[27] For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,  
or let your Holy One see corruption.  
[28] You have made known to me the paths of life;  
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

[29] “Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. [30] Being therefore a prophet,



and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, [31] he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. [32] This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. [33] Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. [34] For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,

“The Lord said to my Lord,  
 “Sit at my right hand,  
 [35] until I make your enemies your footstool.”

[36] Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

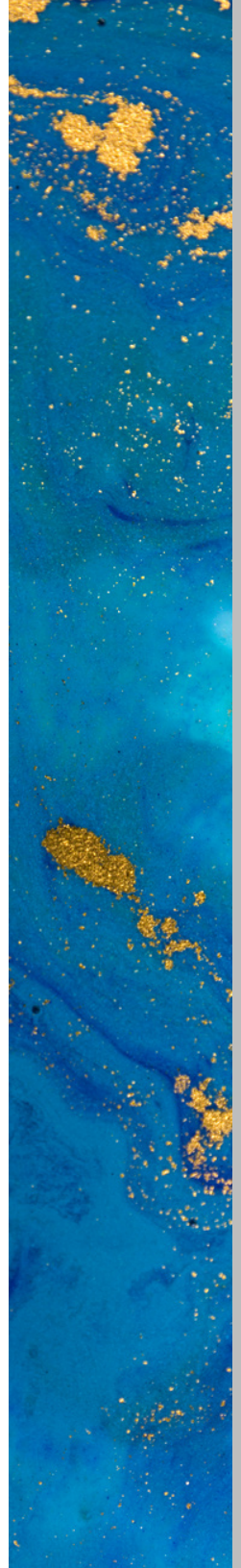
[37] Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” [38] And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. [39] For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” [40] And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” [41] So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

[42] And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. [43] And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. [44] And all who believed were together and had all things in



common. [45] And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. [46] And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, [47] praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. (ESV)

### *Sermon Notes*



*Monday*

---

***Read 1 Peter 2:4-12***

What incredible dignity has been given to the church. Taking much from God's promises to Israel, Peter applies them to the Church in Christ. Meditate on vv. 9-10, repeating it over and over in your heart.

***Respond***

*Tuesday*


---

*Read Acts 4:23-37*

Notice what the apostles do (and do not) pray for after their release from prison. Their unity in prayer bleeds naturally into their unity in everything else. Pray for the same sort of experience among us.

*The Church is called to be “the presence of the reign of God in foretaste, the sign of the inbreaking of the kingdom. The Church is not so much the agent of the mission as the locus of the mission.” - Lesslie Newbigin*

*Respond*



*“The Church is  
not so much  
the agent of the  
mission as the  
locus of the  
mission.”*

---

LESSLIE NEWBIGIN

*Wednesday*

---

***Read Genesis 12:1-9  
See Also Isaiah 49:1-7***

Our God is a missionary God, and his mission to the nations is an ancient one, seeing here that it began with his first call to Abram (later: Abraham). Pray for a sense of mission among your neighbors.

***Respond***

*Thursday*

---

*Read John 1:1-18*

We see here not only the glories of Christ, but also the mission of Christ - to be God's glory dwelling with his people. In the Church, we are sent as God's dwelling just as Christ was. Pray for deeper understanding and love of these truths.

*Respond*

*Friday*

---

*Read John 17:1-26*  
*See Also John 20:19-23*

Notice especially Jesus' comparisons between his relationship to the Father and our relationship both to the Triune God and to one another. Pray that our love and unity would proclaim Christ.

*Respond*

*Saturday*

---

***Read Matthew 28:16-20***

The so-called “Great Commission” also shows us that we are sent as a Church that includes teaching, baptizing, Jesus’ presence and his authority. Pray for the proper zeal to find your place with your brothers and sisters in the midst of this missionary call.

***Respond***





*Week Three*  
**Confessional**  
Abiding in Christ our Prophet

In the midst of such persecution, notice Paul's concern for guarding the truth and testimony of the gospel. Guarding "doctrine" may sound boring or stodgy, but to the Christian it is part of preserving the good news of the gospel, which is better than anything we could imagine. Pray for the ability and willingness to live out the injunctions God gives us here through Paul.

## 2 Timothy 1:1–14

Sermon | “Abiding in Christ our Prophet”

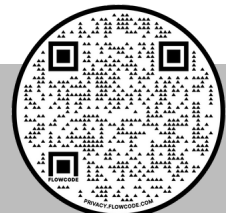
---

[1] Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus,

[2] To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

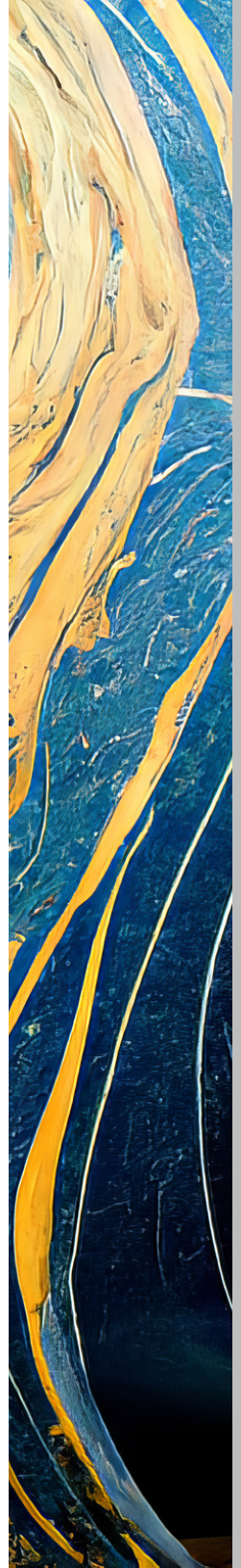
[3] I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. [4] As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. [5] I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. [6] For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, [7] for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

[8] Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, [9] who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his



own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, [10] and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, [11] for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, [12] which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me. [13] Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. [14] By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you. (ESV)

### *Sermon Notes*



*Monday*

---

***Read 1 Timothy 1:1-17***

“The aim of our charge is love,” even though that may demand significant debate and right teaching. Pray that your pursuit of knowledge is for the right reasons - from a pure heart to the glory of the King of the ages.

***Respond***

*Tuesday*

---

***Read Psalm 119***

Yes, read all of it! It is an acrostic to end all acrostics, meaning that each group of 8 verses begins with the letter of the Hebrew alphabet, which has 22 letters, hence 22 groups of 8 verses. Imagine the devotion and love of the Word of God that would create such a beautiful poem! Pray for a similar sort of love and obedience to God and his revealed will.

*“It pleased the Lord, at sundry times, and in diverse manners, to reveal himself, and to declare that his will unto his church; and afterwards, for the better preserving and propagating of the truth, and for the more sure establishment and comfort of the church against the corruption of the flesh, and the malice of Satan and of the world, to commit the same wholly unto writing: which maketh the Holy Scripture to be most necessary; those former ways of God's revealing his will unto his people being now ceased.”*

- WCF 1.1

***Respond***

*Wednesday*

---

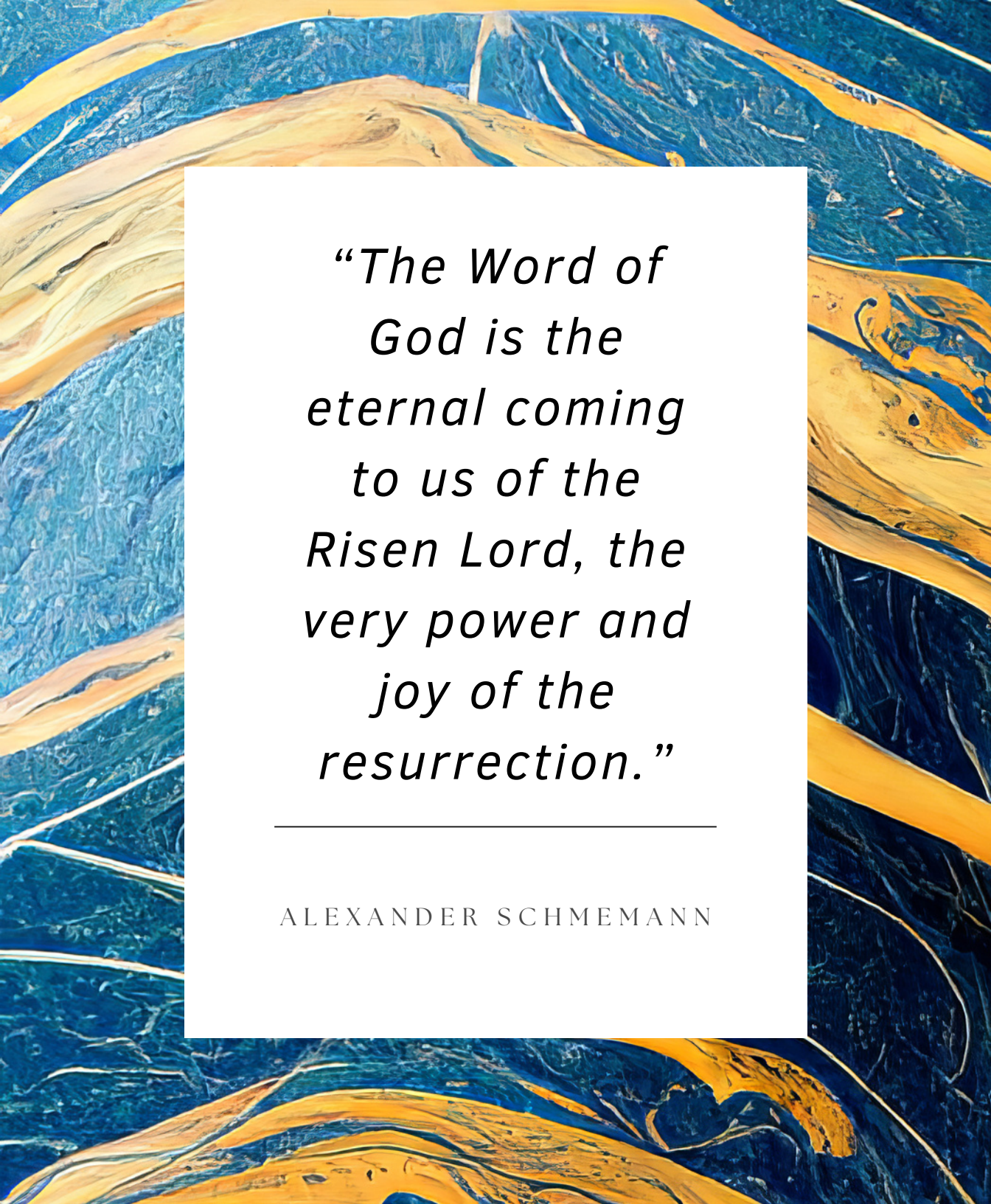
***Read 2 Timothy 3:10-17***

Notice the close connection between Paul's life and his devotion to Scripture. You cannot be "complete, equipped for every good work" without knowing and loving the Scriptures. Pray for the weekly sermons, that the preacher may be the mouthpiece of God alone and that the congregation would come with humble hearts, eager to be transformed by the Word.

*"The whole counsel of God concerning all things necessary for his own glory, man's salvation, faith and life, is either expressly set down in Scripture, or by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from Scripture: unto which nothing at any time is to be added, whether by new revelations of the Spirit, or traditions of men." - WCF 1.6*

***Respond***






*“The Word of  
God is the  
eternal coming  
to us of the  
Risen Lord, the  
very power and  
joy of the  
resurrection.”*

---

ALEXANDER SCHMEMANN





Thursday

---

*Read Titus 2*

We see again the importance of the right doctrine, and how glorious that doctrine is. Pray for the mind of Christ, to be clearly focused on his truth and love.

*“The Word is as sacramental as the sacrament is ‘evangelical.’ The sacrament is a manifestation of the Word. The proclamation of the word is a sacramental act par excellence because it is a transforming act. The Word of God is the eternal coming to us of the Risen Lord, the very power and joy of the resurrection.” – Alexander Schmemmann*

*Respond*

*Friday*

---

*Read Acts 15:1-35*

Without getting bogged down in the details, notice the good news of being a part of a global and connectional church – we aren't making up truth on our own!

*“God's saving actions are historical, but they need to be interpreted, to be explained by words, in order for the audience to grasp them. . . . [Creeds and confessions] have been constructed throughout the ages by people from very different contexts but who are all bound together by the shared horizons of God's revelation in Christ and in the biblical text and their own common human nature as readers of that text. This is what gives creeds and confessions a quality that transcends the local conditions of their original composition and that allows us to take them seriously.” – Carl Trueman*

*Respond*

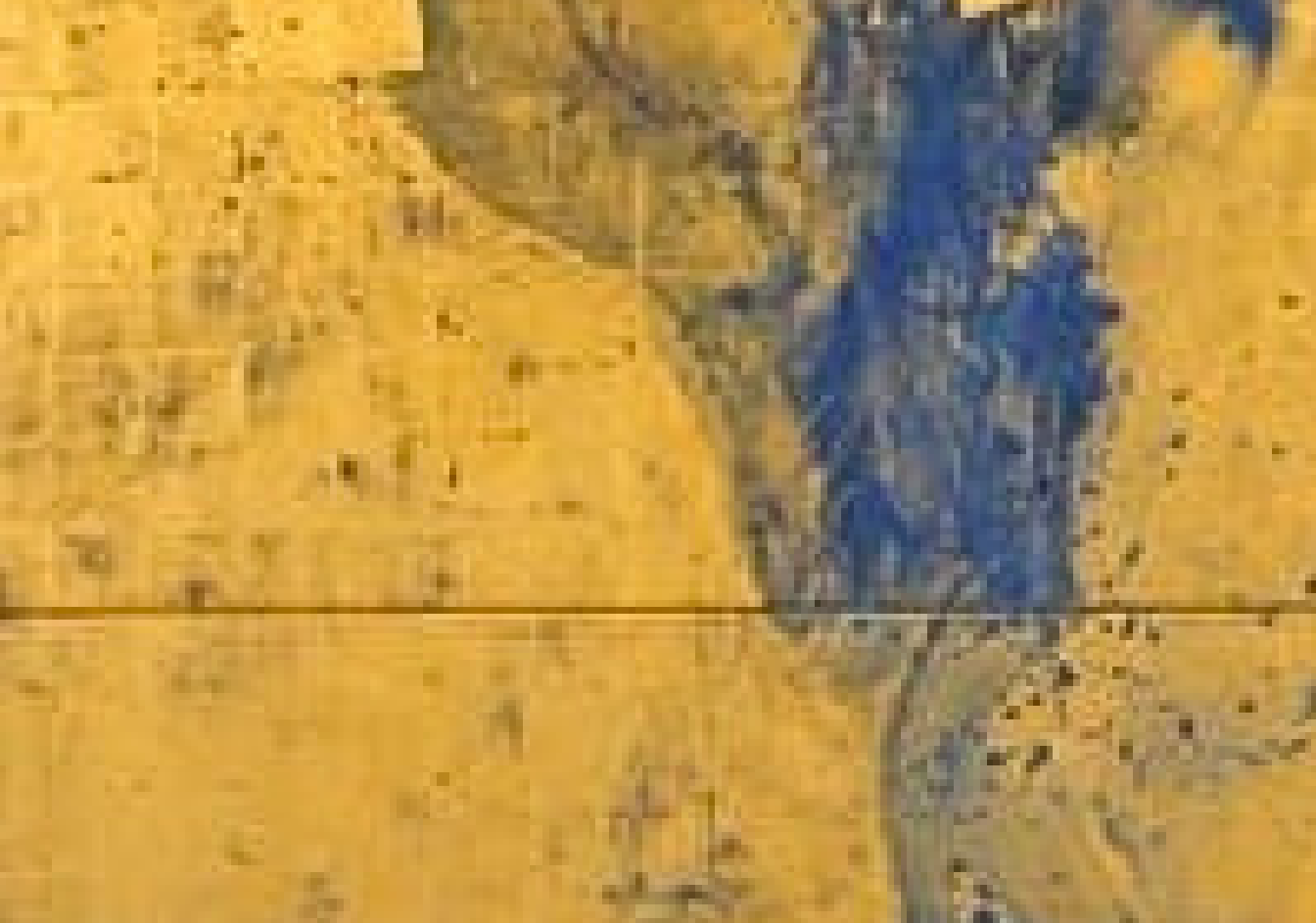
*Saturday*

---

***Read Philippians 2:1-11***

Aside from “Jesus is Lord,” vv. 6-11 is perhaps the earliest example of a Christian creed. Notice how ascribing to a creed is not only biblical, but is such good news because of the content of the creed itself. Thus, Paul can say elsewhere with such earnestness, “even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.” (Gal. 1:8). Pray for a growth in the awe and adoration of Christ and his work.

***Respond***



*Week Four*

# Sacramental

Abiding in Christ our Priest

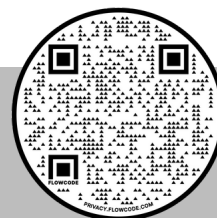
The “participation” we have in Christ includes communion, fellowship, and partaking of him. It’s much deeper than what “participate” may sound like to our ears. Pray for a deeper appreciation of our union with Christ, both individually and together as His body.

# 1 Corinthians 10:14–22

Sermon | “Abiding in Christ our Priest”

---

[14] Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. [15] I speak as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. [16] The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? [17] Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. [18] Consider the people of Israel: are not those who eat the sacrifices participants in the altar? [19] What do I imply then? That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? [20] No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons. [21] You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. [22] Shall we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he? (ESV)



*Sermon Notes*



*Monday*

---

***Read Hebrews 12:18-24***

What a wonderful gift communal worship is! Meditate on the specific truths of vv. 22-24. When we are discouraged that worship doesn't "feel exciting", let us remember who we are truly worshiping with, and the God who is alone worthy of worship.

***Respond***

*Tuesday*

---


*Read Ephesians 2:11-22*

The salvation secured in Christ is never understood merely individually – just as we have a new relationship with our gracious Father, we are also born into a family with new brothers and sisters! Pray for your union with Christ to manifest itself in your union with specific people in the church.

*“All saints, that are united to Jesus Christ their Head, by his Spirit, and by faith, have fellowship with him in his graces, sufferings, death, resurrection, and glory: and, being united to one another in love, they have communion in each other's gifts and graces, and are obliged to the performance of such duties, public and private, as do conduce to their mutual good, both in the inward and outward man. Saints by profession are bound to maintain a holy fellowship and communion in the worship of God, and in performing such other spiritual services as tend to their mutual edification; as also in relieving each other in outward things, according to their several abilities and necessities. Which communion, as God offereth opportunity, is to be extended unto all those who, in every place, call upon the name of the Lord Jesus.” - WCF 26.1-2*

*Respond*



The background of the entire image is a marbled pattern in shades of blue and gold. The pattern consists of swirling, organic shapes in various tones of blue, from light sky blue to deep navy, with thin, irregular veins and speckles of gold or yellow. The overall effect is reminiscent of traditional marbled paper or stone.

*“Saints by  
profession are  
bound to  
maintain a holy  
fellowship and  
communion in  
the worship of  
God...”*

---

WCF 26.1-2

*Wednesday*

---

***Read 1 Kings 8:12-34***

Notice the special privileges that God has assigned to the Temple! Now that Christ has become the Temple of God, the Church by the Holy Spirit can claim the same privileges! Pray for an assurance that reflects the great gifts given to the Church.

***Respond***

*Thursday*

---

***Read John 17:1-26***

Notice the incredibly bold and beautiful promises that Christ promises to dwell with and in us! Pray for a deeper love and appreciation of these truths.

***Respond***

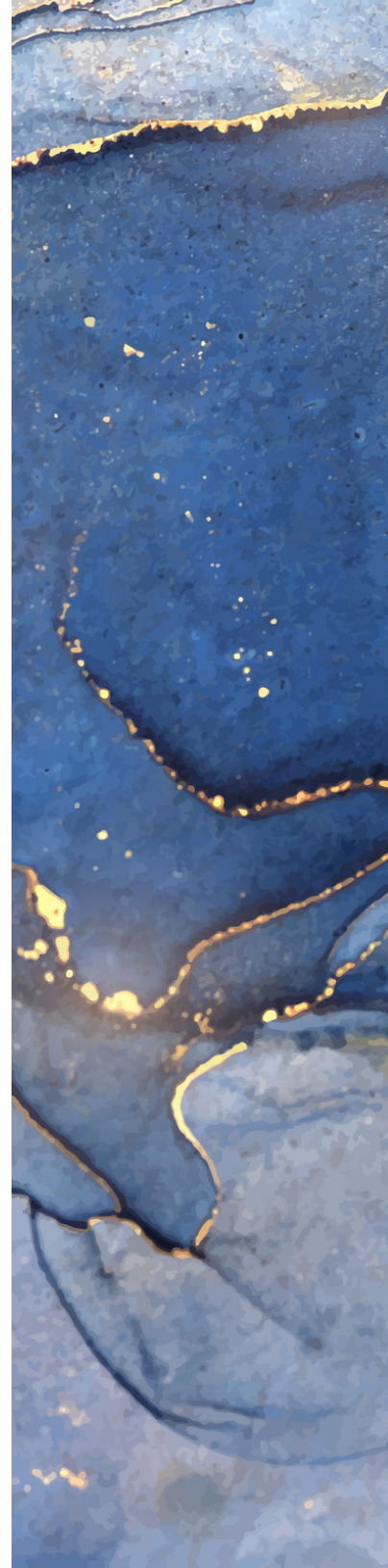
*Friday*

---

***Read Romans 13:8-14***

Put on the Lord Jesus Christ! This is the call of the Church and, as members of it, every Christian. Pray for knowing how to serve in the Church as, literally, part of the body of Christ.

***Respond***



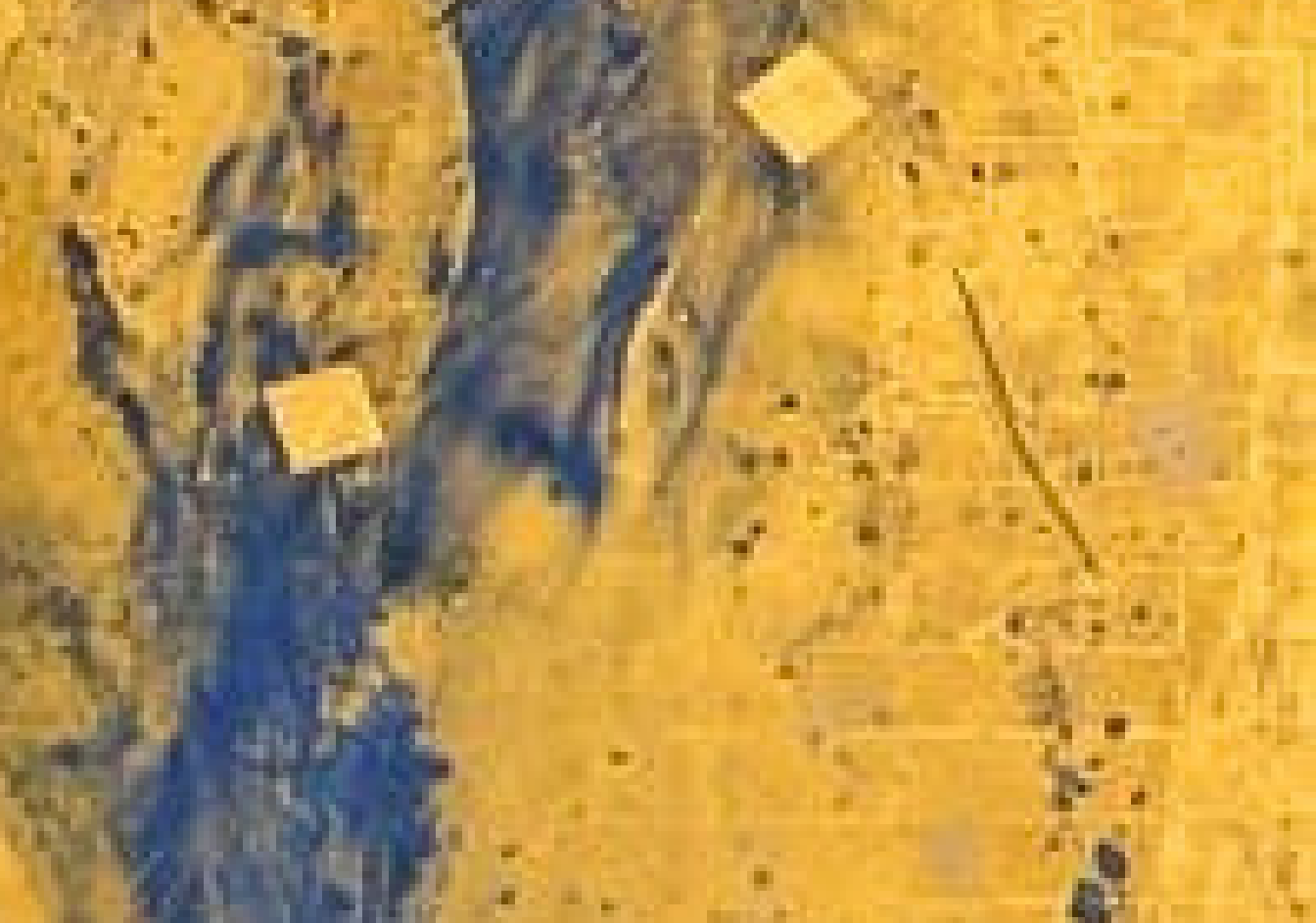
## *Saturday*

---

***Read Hebrews 2:5-18***

The foundation of our hope is that God is not aloof, waiting in heaven for us to climb up to Him, but has become incredibly near to us in Jesus to actually taste our life and even our death for us. Draw near to your merciful and faithful high priest, for he is your human brother and representative reigning in heaven now.

***Respond***



*Week Five*  
**Communal**  
Abiding in Christ our King

In this beautiful charter for the church, Paul describes both the unity (vv.1-6) and diversity (vv.7-12) of members that come together as they are built up into the Head, Christ. Pray for wisdom in discerning your role in this wonderful journey.



# Ephesians 4:1–16

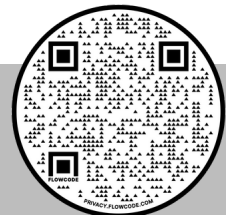
Sermon | “Abiding in Christ our King”

---

[1] I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, [2] with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, [3] eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. [4] There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—[5] one Lord, one faith, one baptism, [6] one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. [7] But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift. [8] Therefore it says,

“When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men.”

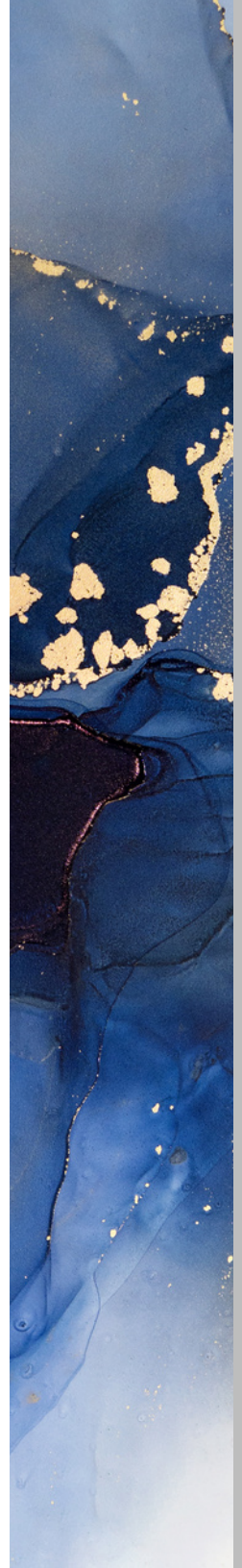
[9] (In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? [10] He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) [11] And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, [12] to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for





[12] to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, [13] until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, [14] so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. [15] Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, [16] from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. (ESV)

### *Sermon Notes*



*Monday*

---

***Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-31***  
***See Also Romans 12:1-21***

Notice what this passage implies about who we are - we are people who can only experience Christ fully in community. "Me and Jesus" spirituality is, by definition, impossible because you would miss out on most of Jesus! Pray for your love of Jesus to grow in showing itself through your love for your Christian siblings.

***Respond***

*Tuesday*

---

***Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-13***

This passage is a perfect next step from yesterday's - this is ultimately how we are to act in the church. What aspects of love are hardest for you to appreciate or live out? Why is that? Pray for the Spirit to continue to shape you into the image of Jesus.

***Respond***

*Wednesday*

---

***Read Psalm 68:1-35***

Quoted in the Ephesians 4 passage above, this Psalm describes a victory march of God's people. The Church in Christ is now caught up into God's victory. Pray for the same celebratory spirit that the Psalmist exudes, that our joy would bring praise to our King!

***Respond****Thursday*

---

***Read 1 Peter 5:1-11***

Don't forget, your elders have to read this too! What a beautiful picture of the church community, with distinct roles yet all called to humility. Draw near to the Lord. Pray for your elders and that we would all work well together under the one Chief Shepherd.

***Respond***

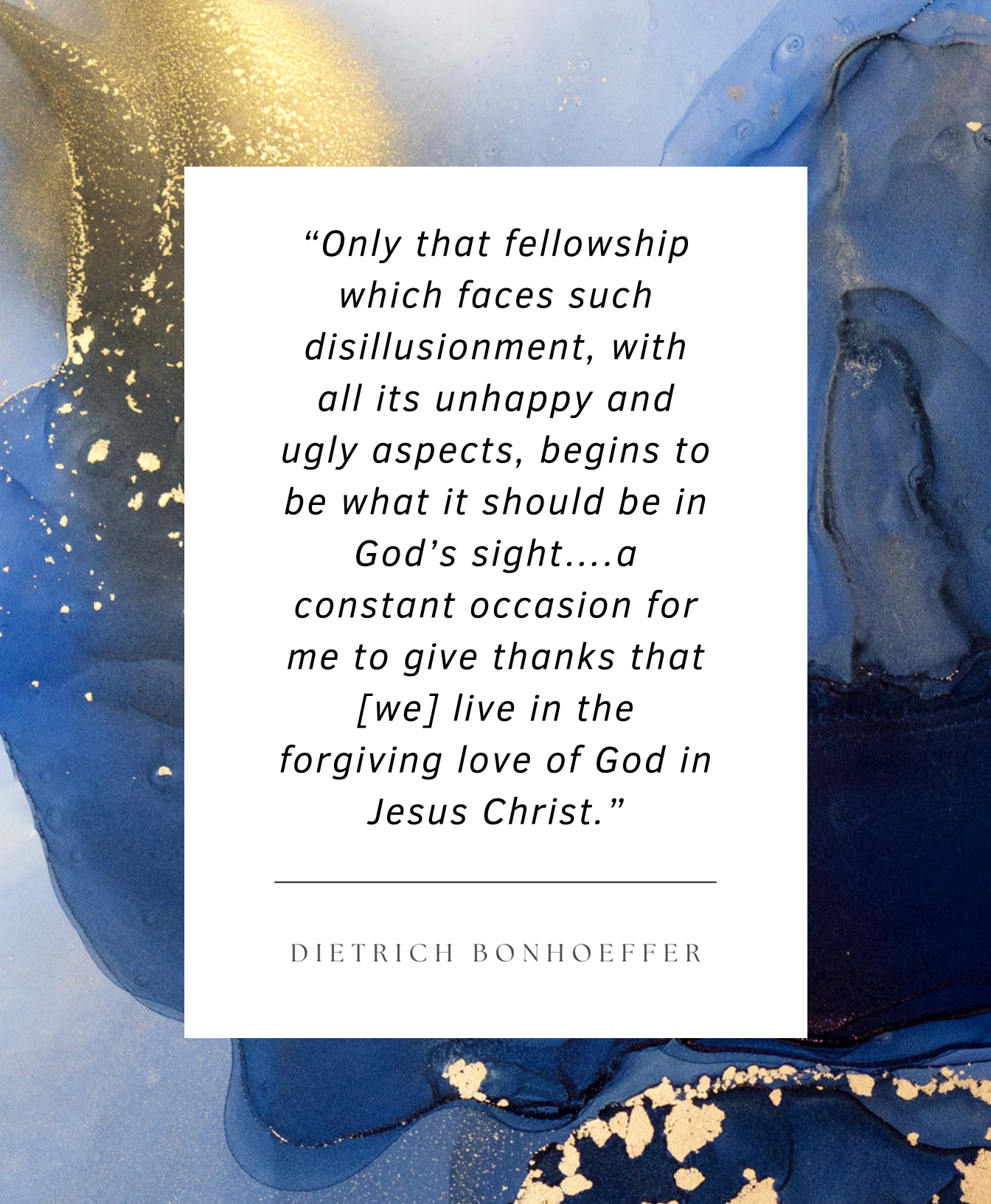
*Friday*

---

***Read 1 Corinthians 5:1-13***

This is the “excommunication” passage, to be handled with care and ultimately by the church’s authorized leaders; however, notice the purpose is “that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord” and that the church would be holy and pure. Pray for honest and real discipleship that wants to root out sin in your heart.

***Respond***



*“Only that fellowship  
which faces such  
disillusionment, with  
all its unhappy and  
ugly aspects, begins to  
be what it should be in  
God’s sight....a  
constant occasion for  
me to give thanks that  
[we] live in the  
forgiving love of God in  
Jesus Christ.”*

---

DIETRICH BONHOEFFER

Saturday

---

**Read Mark 10:35-45**

There is authority in the church, and that sounds intimidating to many, but it is always to be exercised in a countercultural way that serves the other in humility and grace. Pray for your heart to be drawn to Christ's model of service, rather than the world's.

*"Only that fellowship which faces such disillusionment, with all its unhappy and ugly aspects, begins to be what it should be in God's sight. We do not complain of what God does not give us; we rather thank God for what He does give us daily. God hates visionary dreaming. Is not the sinning brother still a brother, with whom I, too, stand under the Word of Christ? Will not his sin be a constant occasion for me to give thanks that both of us may live in the forgiving love of God in Jesus Christ? Thus the very hour of disillusionment with my brother becomes incomparably salutary. Christian community is like the Christian's sanctification. It is a gift of God which we cannot claim. What may appear weak and trifling to us may be great and glorious to God. Just as the Christian should not be constantly feeling his spiritual pulse, so, too, the Christian community has not been given to us by God for us to be constantly taking its temperature. Christian brotherhood is not an ideal which we must realize; it is rather a reality created by God in Christ in which we may participate." - Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

**Respond**

*Notes*



*Anabaino* by Makoto Fujimara, commissioned by Christ Presbyterian Church, is installed over the chancel in the sanctuary. *Anabaino* is Greek for “I am ascending,” and invokes Christ’s ascension ministry today.





CPCNEWHAVEN.ORG  
135 WHITNEY AVE.  
NEW HAVEN, CT