

10-29-23 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

“it is impossible to love God without also loving those created in God's image... as followers of Jesus, we face a constant challenge to give our time in service to both God and neighbor.”

- Pat Handlson



Matthew 22:34-46

Questions for Reflection —

- In how much of your life does God have first priority? What are the competing priorities? What do you need in order to make God the center of focus in your daily life? What would it mean for you to love God with your heart, soul, and mind? How do you presently express your love for God? What are some ways you need to grow in love of God?

- In what ways do you practice love of neighbor in your daily life? What are some of the unique challenges facing people who live near you? What can you do to enhance the well-being of your neighbors? What might we do as a congregation to build connections and relationship with those who are unchurched in the neighborhood around the church? How can we as a congregation come to better understand the struggles faced by our neighbors? What resources can we have offer that might help alleviate the struggles and challenges?

- What issues do you think have potential to disrupt unity within the church—within our congregation, within our denomination, within the Church beyond the denomination? What might it take to foster a sense of unity across diverse theological perspectives on potentially controversial issues? Where/how might we find common ground to heal the brokenness and division in the world? What would it mean to share God’s love with the world?

Daily Household Prayer

O God, the Giver of life, we pray for the Church throughout the world. Sanctify its life, renew its worship, empower its witness, restore its unity. Remove from your people all pride and every prejudice that dulls their will for unity. Strengthen the work of all those who strive to seek that common obedience that will bind us together. Heal the divisions which separate your children from one another, that they may keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. Amen.