

## 04-28-24 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

“...abiding is often slow work for which there is no measurement for success. Just as any relationship takes time to cultivate, so too our relationship with God and self and community may grow or deepen in fits and starts, ebbs and flows. It takes time to build a spiritual history with God and with others. And it requires investments of time, attention, and energy to practice the presence of God in our lives.”

- *Marsha Crockett*



John 15:1-8

### Questions for Reflection —

- What would deeper intimacy with God look like for you? What does it mean for you to abide in Jesus and for Jesus to abide with you? What nourishes your spiritual roots and keeps you connected to your faith? In what ways are you willing to invest your time, attention, and energy to deepen your relationship with God? What helps you prepare and maintain a dwelling place deep within your soul where Jesus can abide?
  
- How/when have you known the gift of community in shaping and supporting you? How does connection with community sustain and strengthen your faith? In what ways have the lives of others influenced and transformed your own? Who have been the people in your life who have shaped who you are? What does it look like for you to be a faithful companion to the people in your life?
  
- What has God done in your life that makes it more productive? What does bearing fruit presently look like in your daily life? How does being connected to a community of faith contribute to your ability to bear fruit for God’s kin-dom? What keeps you connected to this particular community of faith? How can we as a congregation grow as a community of connection that helps each of us to bear more fruit?

### Daily Household Prayer

Almighty God, through your only Son you overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life. Grant that we who celebrate our Lord’s resurrection, by the renewing of your Spirit, arise from the death of sin to the life of righteousness; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.