

DAILY READING PLAN



Week of July 3, 2022

Alive: Spirit of Unity and Diversity

Ephesians 4:1-6

Day One: Read Ephesians 4:1

Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for God has called you.

- The Apostle Paul begins by imploring the faith community in Ephesus and all followers of Christ in every age and time to live up to and into their calling as followers of Christ. He then describes what that looks like in the following verses by reminding the reader that this is the Spirit's work within us; we don't accomplish this on our own. "Lead a life worthy of your calling." Take a few moments and reflect on how you understand Christ's call in your life. What has Christ called you to do? How do you "hear" that call?

Day Two: Read Ephesians 4:2

Always be humble and gentle. Be patient, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love.

- Many people understand God as an accuser, a judge, a God who condemns and is just waiting for them to mess up so they can be reminded of how bad they are as human beings. But near the conclusion of the communion celebration, we proclaim these words: "In this sacrament, God renews, restores, and reconciles us as the body of Christ, and sends us out in the power of the Holy Spirit to proclaim the good news of the risen Christ." How do you relate to these two messages? Which message resonates more with you? How does communion renew you?

Day Three: Read Ephesians 4:3

Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace...

- Let's commit this phrase to memory today: "In this sacrament, God renews, restores, and reconciles us as the body of Christ, and sends us out in the power of the Holy Spirit to proclaim the good news of the risen Christ." How do you understand Christ's work of reconciliation? What area of your life needs restoration? How does sharing communion give you a sense of restoration in your life?

Day Four: Read Ephesians 4:4

...for there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future.

- From memory, let's try it again today: "In this sacrament, God renews, restores, and reconciles us as the body of Christ, and sends us out in the power of the Holy Spirit to proclaim the good news of the risen Christ." The work of Jesus is to bring all things back together. Through his life, death, and resurrection, everything that has been torn apart now comes together. Take some time today and reflect on what needs to be restored in your life. How will you participate in that?

Day Five: Read Ephesians 4:5-6

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, in all, and living through all.

- God gives us the promise that we are renewed, restored and reconciled for a particular purpose in Christ. That purpose is to go out in the power of the Holy Spirit to proclaim the good news of the risen Christ. How would you describe the good news of the risen Christ? What does that mean for you?