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Gary Schaeffer, Pastor

Home Devotional- May 3rd- May 9th 2021

Introduction

This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.

Prayer of the Day

O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Readings and Psalm

Acts 10:44-48

The Spirit poured out on the Gentiles

Psalm 98

Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands. (Ps. 98:4)

1 John 5:1-6

The victory of faith

John 15:9-17

Christ the friend and lover

Questions for Reflection

1. Contrast servants and friends. When do you feel like a servant and when a friend of Jesus'? (John 15:15)
2. The floods and hills praise God (Psalm 98:7, 8). When and where do you experience nature praising God?
3. What are current parallels to the division between Jews and Gentiles that was healed in Christ? (Acts 10:45)

Pray the Lord's Prayer Together

Bless one another saying:

May God bless you this week and always. **AMEN**

Resources:

Text and Prayers: Sundaysandseasons.com - Questions- Workingpreacher.org