

## ***“Sophie and Friends”***



## ***“Together Again”***

*“I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the LORD!’  
Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.”*

*(Psalm 122:1-2)*

A few weeks ago, Sophie spent the day at “Camp Four Paws” and met many new friends. She had the time of her life running, jumping and chasing her canine companions through mud holes and obstacle courses. When Lynne picked her up at the end of the day, she was exhausted and deeply content. Dogs are pack animals. They love to be together with one another. Social distancing is not in their nature...nor ours.

Psalm 122 is a Psalm of Ascents. The people of God burst into joyful singing each year as they made their annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem for one of the great feasts. They anticipated with joy being together again in worship with their community of friends. Their songs of praise were a reminder of the joy their ancestors felt in returning to Jerusalem from exile in a strange and foreign land. For seventy years, the people of God in exile dreamed of the day when they would gather again in worship. Their hearts were full. They were coming home to worship. Their season of exile was over.

This Sunday, Reformation Sunday, is the first Sunday we will be together again in worship in over seven months (March 8, 2020). The words of the psalmist seem so appropriate, “*I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord!’*” We continue to take every necessary precaution to ensure a safe and secure worship experience. We will sit in chairs six feet apart and will not be able to sing or recite aloud our confession of faith. We will sing with our hearts. We will be wearing masks and have hand sanitizer for everyone in attendance. We will be together again around the Word and Sacraments of Jesus. Each of the next five Sundays at 10:30 AM (October 25<sup>th</sup> - November 22<sup>nd</sup>) we will come together again in worship at the Sportsman’s Park. As the weather cools, we hope to return to the Fireside Room for the season of Advent (November 29, 2020). We are recording each of these services and will put them on the church website each Monday morning along with the written documents.

Sophie will not be able to join us on Sunday at the Sportsman’s Park. She cannot imagine how 50 humans can celebrate being together again with their friends without mud holes or obstacle courses!