

"Let the Word of Christ Run Your House"

Sermon by Lisa Crismore

September 26, 2021 – John Knox Presbyterian Church

Colossians 3:12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. **Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly;** teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Today, we are going to do something a little different when it comes to the sermon. We are going to transport ourselves to the retreat at Pyoca. This morning we are going to participate in some of the activities that the children, youth and adults did as we lived into this scripture from Colossians.

Now don't worry, there won't be painting with our feet nor will we be usually shaving cream and food coloring to create wonderful pictures, which are both things we did. But, there are some things that we will do to "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly" or as The Message says, "Let the Word of Christ have the run of the house."

John Francke is the Theologian in Residence at Second Presbyterian and he was the person who led the discussion for the adults. He had introduced our time at Friday night vespers as reading the Word of God or Christ and living into it. So many times, we study it. We take it a part trying to find meaning as though we are dissecting it.

What they had found to be very helpful and meaningful for people during the quarantine period of Covid was offering a time of leading people through a time of Lectio Divina. This is Latin for spiritual reading, a traditional monastic practice of scriptural reading, meditation and prayer intended to promote communion with God and to increase the knowledge of God's word.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lectio_Divina#:~:text=In%20Western%20Christianity%20\(such%20as,the%20knowledge%20of%20God's%20word.\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lectio_Divina#:~:text=In%20Western%20Christianity%20(such%20as,the%20knowledge%20of%20God's%20word.)) Some of us through our Book Study know it as a Spiritual practice.

Before we walked my group this practice with our scripture today, we talked about the one verse that was really the focus of our time together. It was "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly." As we read scripture, we take in God's Word. It is the Holy Spirit that is inside of us that opens up meaning and speaks to us - drawing us into a closer relationship to God. We talked about the word "richly". Some of us might think of money, or food. But, it really is about abundance.

We hear Paul's letter to the Colossians teaching us the importance of reading God's Word, letting it dwell in us, and filling us up abundantly. I wanted to try some Lectio Divina today. You would have received a papers when you came in along with some items that we will use as we live into Christ's Word. For those of you watching online, you want to get a couple of pieces of paper to take notes or write some of your reflections down.

We have already heard this passage two times from the "Call to Worship" and the "Scripture Reading." So, I will read it through two more times. You were asked during the Scripture Reading if a word or phrase caught your attention.

This time when I read it, listen for God calling you or speaking to you with a word or phrase. Read Colossians 3:12-17.

This last time when I read the scripture, listen and contemplate what God is wanting you to do in your life. Read Colossians 3:12-17.

To take us deeper into living into the Word of Christ, I wanted to give you a sampling of what my time with the children, youth and my helpers, Pam and Goehrig was like. So take out your papers. Did everyone get one and those at home did you get some paper to take notes? We are going to break down but hopefully not dissect the passage.

First:

"As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience."

What does it look like to clothe yourself with these words – Compassion, Kindness, Humility, Meekness and Patience? What are examples of you doing these?

"Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forve each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive."

Forgiveness papers – later we will come forward and dissolve them. Write areas you are seeking forgiveness or requesting forgiveness from someone else.

"Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony."

A gift of love to someone – friend, family member or stranger

"And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body."

One thing we have not done in a long time here at church is pass the peace. I don't want you to shake hands or hug. But, please stand a bump elbows sharing the peace of Christ that calls us all into one body.

"And be thankful. **Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly**; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God."

Gratitude and thankfulness reflections – take a few moments and write down some of the categories where you are thankful and have gratitude to God.

Finally – Let us pray

Gracious and loving creator, redeemer and sustainer, you give us Holy Scripture to fill us with abundance so that our lives can be more connected to you. Let this be a taste that we will continue to have us yearn for more and may this be a start of changing us forever. And now whatever we do, in word or deed, help us to do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Amen.

Colossians 3:12-17

"As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience."

What does it look like to clothe yourself with these words? How do you do this in your every day walk of faith?

Compassion

Kindness

Humility

Meekness

Patience

"Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, for each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive."

Forgiveness paper – later we will come forward and dissolve them in water. Write areas you are seeking forgiveness or requesting forgiveness from someone else. We will give these burdens over to God and be free. *This is rice paper that dissolves in water.*

"Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony."

A gift of love to someone – Please write a message of love on the heart and give it to a friend, family member or stranger. Stranger might say, "God loves you"

"And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body."

One thing we have not done in a long time here at church is pass the peace. I don't want you to shake hands or hug. But, please stand a bump elbows sharing the peace of Christ that calls us all into one body.

"And be thankful. **Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly;** teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God."

Gratitude and thankfulness reflections – take a few moments and write down some of the categories where you are thankful and have gratitude to God.

Gratitude

Thankfulness

Self –

Family –

Moment –

Stranger –

Friend –

Place –

Home –

Special Day –

Music –

Church –

Nature –

God –

Job/School/Retirement –