



SHARED MISSION

Read Together

Philippians 2:1-18

“Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.”

(Philippians 2:4)

Learn Together (watch week 2 video lesson)

The Christ Hymn in Philippians 2:1-18 is one of the earliest recorded affirmations of faith. Paul was leaning into this affirmation of core faith specifics because, while he was in prison, there were pastors coming into Philippi trying to teach a counter-Pauline message, largely one that would cause dissension amidst Paul’s Gentile unification message.

Paul was concerned with prioritization of the individual or self over the collective Philippian mission. Paul modeled for the Philippians what scholars call “the pattern of privilege-servanthood-exaltation,” where Paul acknowledges his status and goes on to say that he would gladly set it aside for a greater heavenly status of servanthood, and in servanthood identity, all will “shine like stars to the world” (Philippians 2:15) in exalting Christ.

By engaging in self-sacrifice and laying aside some of our own desires, we more fully realize the posture and attitude of Christ in dying for us, and that we then are called to die symbolically as we sacrifice for Christ. As we come together in shared mission, in shared purpose, in shared vision, we embody and model for the world the reality that we no longer need to be enticed by fracturing and brokenness. Instead, through our unity, the world may know a more profound promise, a deeper future and new life in Jesus Christ.

Pray Together

Missional God, you relentlessly pursue us for relationship. You unceasingly love us. Can we pursue the world and love others like you do us? Help us grow in understanding the wider mission you have for us as individuals and as a community. Send us with faith, courage and compassion into the world as both sign and invitation of the transforming relationship available through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

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Reflect Together

When have you had to sacrifice in the name of love? Think about friendships, siblings, parents, marriage or kids. Was it worth it? Was it too hard to do? How were you able to give of yourself for someone else?

Paul talks about how Christ was able to humble himself, even to the point of death, in order that a light might shine. How might you prioritize the greater mission of the church over lesser priorities so that McFarlin's light might shine?

Paul encourages the Philippians to “do all things without murmuring and arguing” (Philippians 2:14). We also know that discussion and back-and-forths can be helpful in gaining wisdom and different perspectives. How might you discern between helpful disagreement and unhelpful debates? What are some tips and techniques that help keep discernment from becoming debate?

Serve Together

Go to our church’s webpage and look under our missions tab. Which of the mission opportunities noted there have you participated in and supported? Which ones are you especially pleased to see that we engaged in? Are there any missions that you feel grateful for because others are serving in or supporting them and you’re pretty sure it’s not something you could or would do?

NEXT WEEK: SHARED HUMILITY

