

Sunday April 5, 2020 – Easter Hill United Methodist Church

Bible Study – Philippians 2:5-11

Open with a word of prayer

Gathering Time (5-10 minutes). In pairs or groups of three, take turns sharing a favorite hymn or two that guides your life, keeps you focused on Jesus or keeps you strong, giving you hope, in the midst of trying times.

Philippians 2:5-11. Context. As Paul wrote from prison this letter to his beloved congregation in Philippi, he encouraged them to live their lives in imitation of Christ, who lived a life of humility and obedience to God. This week’s reading is the summation of Paul’s understanding of the meaning of Christ’s humility – and his exaltation. It is generally thought to be an early Christian hymn.

Read Philippians 2:5-11

What touches your heart, what do you hear in the scripture, what questions do you have, or what doesn’t make sense to you in the story?

Write down your thoughts or share your thoughts with the person or group you are with.

Read Philippians 2:5-11 again

Reflection questions –Write down your thoughts or share your thoughts with the person or group you are with.

- How do you understand the definition of Christlike humility and obedience to God?
- Describe a time/situation you humbled yourselves. How did it feel? How were you changed by the experience?
- Is it easy or hard for you to be obedient? When a law causes harm or is unjust, how do you decide whether you will obey it or not? How are you obeying this “shelter-in-place order?”
- How does striving to be humble and obedient, to have the mind and heart like that of Jesus help you deep your relationship with him.

Read Philippians 2:5-11

- In the Roman city of Philippi, it was the Emperor who was normally described as “Lord;” and Roman society as a whole was characterized by competition and a constant striving for greater social and material status. Paul’s description of Jesus is pointedly counter-cultural. On a scale of 1 to 10, just how counter-cultural is the way you live your life?

Prayer (10 minutes). Each person prays sharing their answer the following statements:
I ask God for....
I thank God for.....

After all, have shared, pray the closing prayer

Closing Prayer – End by praying the following together:

Lord, help me see humility as an honor, not a sacrifice, as I strive to have a mind and heart like that of Jesus. Allow me to understand that obedience does not limit, but instead deepens, my relationship with you. Amen. And now we pray The Lord's Prayer....

Our Father who art in Heaven
hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power
and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.