

Sunday, July 25, 2021 – Easter Hill United Methodist Church

**Bible Study – Ephesians 3:14-21
“Rooted and Grounded in Love”**

Open with a word of prayer

Gathering Time (5-10 minutes) In pairs or groups of three, have participants share their experiences of feeling loved (for example, love expressed by our parents, family, or friends).

Ephesians 3:14-21. Context. In the verses that precede today’s reading, the author worries that Paul’s sufferings might tempt the Ephesian Christians to lose heart. So he continues with a prayer that they may be strengthened as they grow as Christians, and that they may come to know the love of Christ and be filled with “the fullness of God,” a constant awareness of God’s presence in their lives. He ends with a doxology (word of praise), that God be glorified in the church and in Jesus.

Read Ephesians 3:14-21

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 Ephesians 3:14-21 again.

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

- For what reasons does Paul have to “bow” his knee before God? [Recall the main themes of weeks 1 and 2 – hope and grace that lead to reconciliation.]
- Have one person from the group read the passage aloud for the group. Each time the reader encounters the word “you,” have him/her pronounce it as “you all” or “y’all.” (The word “you” is plural in Greek, but that is hard to translate in our English versions.) What difference does that make in what we learn about in this passage?
- What do we learn about each person of the Trinity from this passage?
- What might Paul be referring to by observing that “the love of Christ surpasses all knowledge”?
- What does that say about the limitations of our knowledge? About the vast scope of God’s love?
- How might verse 20 shape our prayer life and our expectations of what God desires to do in us and through us?

- What might it mean for you to be “rooted and grounded in love”? How would you live differently if you were more aware of that?

Closing Reflection Question

How is this scripture calling you to change, to see, to be or what might it be calling you to do?

Prayer (10 minutes). Each person prays sharing their answer the following statements:

I ask God for....

I thank God for.....

Sending Forth (2 minutes). After all, have shared, pray the closing prayer. Ask for a volunteer to lead the group or read the following prayer in unison:

God of transformation, strengthen us as individuals and as a community of followers with the power of the Holy Spirit. Ground us and root us in your love, and may we yield to your grace that you might accomplish abundantly far more in us and through us than we can ask or imagine.

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.