

Imagine a World with More

July 24 – August 28, 2022

“The heavens are telling the glory of God” – Psalm 19:1

As a church, we are in a season of reimagination and renewal. What has been is no longer and what will be remains unknown. Instead of worrying about what's next or getting caught up in fear of what we don't have, let us imagine more. In her 2022 State of the Church address Rev. Teresa “Terri” Hord Owens shared, “God's imagination is so limitless that we are called to continually move the stake. We can't think of anything beyond what God can accomplish. We are invited to see God's love as the limitless and abundant force in our world, or the world we want to create.” Let us dream together.

July 24 – Compassion

“Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food?” – Matthew 25:37

Ezekiel 34:11-16; Matthew 25:31-45

These scriptures tell us that God cares deeply and intimately for all of humanity. For both our basic needs and for our thriving. Because of this, our righteousness, our rightness with God, is inextricably linked to how we treat others, how we find and exhibit compassion. If we take this seriously, what does it mean for how we practice our faith?

July 31 – Community

“All who believed were together and had all things in common” – Acts 2:44

1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Acts 2:42-47

In a culture built on individualism what do we do with scriptures that reminds us again and again that we are to be community? We are not intended to live life alone but in relationship. We are to look for the good of the other alongside our own good, to know that our own good is inextricably linked with the good of everyone else. What would our community look like if we truly lived in the model of God?

August 7 – Hope

“Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope” – Hebrews 10:23

1 Samuel 2:1-10; Hebrews 10:23-25

Hope is not mere wishing, but confident expectation rooted in the promises of God. To hope is to both have faith and imagine. To hope is to dream and to act. Without hope what reason do we have to go on? How might a world with more hope impact our communities?

August 14 – Justice

“what does the LORD require of you but to do justice?” – Micah 6:8

Micah 6:6-8; Isaiah 58:6-9a

Our God is a God of justice: tangible, practical justice. Too often we act as if justice is an abstract, unreachable concept. Yet, scripture gives us a vision of justice as the meeting of human need. Of course, meeting these needs requires the overturning of systems and structures that impose injustice. If we work for God's justice, how would the world transform?

August 21 – Beauty

“The heavens are telling the glory of God” – Psalm 19:1

Genesis 1:31-2:3; Psalm 19:1-4a

All creation sings God’s praise and God sees that all is very good. Even without words, the beauty of creation carries the message of God’s love. It is easy to look at creation and see God’s beauty, but what about the messier places in our world and life? Where might God’s beauty be waiting to surprise us?

August 28 – Resurrection

“new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ” – 1 Peter 1:3

2 Corinthians 5:16-19; 1 Peter 1:3-9

Resurrection, the good news that God’s love and life is more powerful than death, is at the heart of our faith. In Christ we have new life and it changes everything. What was dead now lives. What was unseen is now seen. Yet, resurrection is unexpected and may create life in startling ways. How are we being resurrected?