

Worship Engagement and Devotion for week of April 11, 2021

READ 1 John 1:1-2:2, 1 John 2:12-17

Reflections - Life that Looks Like Jesus - 1 John Series – Joy



Reflections – Life that Looks Like Jesus



The season after Easter Sunday is often referred to as "The Great 50 Days" because Easter is a 50-day season of the Church year. These are fifty days for the church to practice living resurrection. During this season at Faith United we are turning our attention to a series titled: Reflections - Life that Looks Like Jesus.

In this series we will explore what it means for those who follow Christ, to live a life that looks like Christ.

Questions for Reflection:

- Reflect on your experience of how you receive faith? As a gift? Through hard work? Bible study and reflection?
- In what ways does sharing about Jesus make joy complete?
- What does it mean to walk in darkness? How can we walk in the light?
- In what ways is your life a reflection of Jesus?
- What inspires you to continue to grow in faith and live as a reflection of Jesus?
- How are you carrying the five Christian practices explored during the January The Walk series into the Easter season?

Spiritual Practice: Celebration



We are all probably familiar with celebrations for birthdays and holidays and other special occasions. Gathering with friends and family in honor of a special event are important moments in our lives. The spiritual practice of celebration invites us to celebrate in light of God's love, provision and blessings. When we practice the discipline of celebration, we intentionally recognize that our world, the beauty around us, the food we eat, our relationships, and all our blessings come from God. In his book *The Spirit of the Disciplines*, Dallas Willard wrote: "We engage in celebration when we enjoy ourselves, our life, our world, in conjunction with our faith and confidence in God's greatness, beauty and goodness." Celebration is about finding joy

in living our lives in relationship with God. Celebration is about showing appreciation and respect for God. The spiritual practice of celebration is not a feeling, but a choice we make. Even in challenging times, the spiritual practice of celebration helps us to remember that God is with us in and through all things, helping us to find peace in the presence of God. Celebration as a spiritual practice reminds us that God in Christ Jesus makes all things new. The Bible is full of examples of celebration and remembering what God has done!

As we enter this season of Easter, begin to make the practice of celebration a part of your spiritual life. Easter is not just one day, but rather a 50-day period beginning on the eve of Easter Sunday and ending on Pentecost, the day we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. In fact, every Sunday, or whatever day we gather for worship is a celebration of Christ's Resurrection. We are Easter people; beloved children of God!

The season of Easter is an opportunity for us to explore, discover and celebrate what Christ is risen means for us today. So, celebrate! Give thanks to God! Sing, dance, and jump for joy! Sing and shout Alleluia! Christ is risen! Read a Psalm, then pray it and then try singing it. Make an effort to remember God's goodness, even when you are having a bad day. Sit in a quiet space and listen for the sounds of nature echoing their celebration to God. Celebrate alone or with family and friends, in silence or out loud. Celebrate the goodness of God in all you do!



"This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD..."
(Exodus 12:14)

"Rejoice always. Pray continually. Give thanks in every situation because this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."
(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 CEB)