

SEPTEMBER 8, 2021

AGAPE FROM AFAR

Adjusting to life amidst Coronavirus



A WORD FROM PASTOR JILL

As a way to remain connected during this time apart, I will be putting together a weekly newsletter with a reflection based on the upcoming Sunday scripture passage. I hope that by taking a few moments to reflect on the Word of God and pray, we can feel grounded and connected to God and to one another during this uncertain time. -Pastor Jill



The passage for this Sunday is from Ephesians 3:14-21. In this passage, Paul is offering a prayer of encouragement for the church in Ephesus.

This letter was written to gentile Christians, and Paul wants to make it clear that God's blessings are available to everyone. Paul prays that the measure of power accorded to the Ephesian Christians might be equal to the riches of God's glory. Since the riches of God's glory are infinite, Paul is asking God to shower these Ephesian Christians with countless blessings.

Reflect more on this passage on the following pages.



Read the passage:

Ephesians 3:14-21

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.





Reflect:

1. How do you stay rooted and grounded in love?
2. How would your life be different if you were filled with all the fullness of God?
3. Paul offered this prayer not just for individuals but for the entire church community. Now answer the same questions with the entire church in mind:

-How does First Church stay rooted and grounded in love?
-How would First Church be different if it was filled with all the fullness of God?

4. What is this passage calling you to do today? This week?

Pray:

Holy One, may our roots stay connected to your love even when the storms of life blow through. Amen.