



*United Presbyterian Church*

*Harrodsburg, Kentucky*

*Meditation for Sunday August 16th*

*Rev. Janice Stamper*

Dear Ones in Christ,

I greet you in the name of the One who is Love. Let us quieten our hearts to hear God's word for us today.

Today's Lectionary psalm in Psalm 133

1 How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! 2 It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes. 3 It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the LORD ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

"How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity" is so often quoted in the church and communities. It is what the psalmist wanted for the people of Israel, and indeed it is sweet.

Truth be told there is much discord in the church, communities, and world. While many profess they love everyone once they serve on committees they can be downright nasty if they don't get their way.

Pause a moment to consider the whole controversy about wearing masks. Then there are the political issues where people are willing to go against God's will to gain power and control. Racism is a sin but many Christians continue to speak against justice for black and brown people. Kindred living together in unity means I consider what is best for the rest of the community. For everyone to live well together we all must sacrifice our own selfish and self-centered desires for the good of all. Goodness will come to me when I put others first. This is what love is. This is what builds community. This is what it means to be part of the Kingdom of God.

I invite each of you to make time to prayerfully consider this psalm. Let the words seep into your souls to change you so others may live.

It is indeed good and pleasant when there is unity for that is where the LORD ordained his blessing which is life evermore. May we seek this unity together.

Please join me in prayer:

*Holy and Redeeming God, Forgive us for when we have created discord and disunity. Lead us to your everlasting life by pursuing what is good for all. Let us know the sweetness of living in true unity. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.*

Rev. Janice A. Stamper