

The Church and the World *Take-home questions*
April 7, 2019, Fifth Sunday in Lent
United Parish in Brookline

The Church

For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them. Matthew 18:20

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.

All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. Acts 2:42-47

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace.

And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:15-17

Why do you come to church?

What do you receive from it?

How do you know when or if it is helpful or beneficial for you?

How does your experience in church inform the rest of your life?

Our Faith out in the World

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

Matthew 28:16-20

If someone asked you to describe your faith life and what's important to you, what would you say? What would be the main points?

Remember how we spoke the first week of faith being a mixture of beliefs, ultimate loyalty, ultimate trust and worldview. We have also talked about our various understandings of God the Creator, Jesus and the Holy Spirit as the grounding of our Christian faith.

How does your faith inform how you are and what you do in your life (e.g., at work, home, in relationships, your politics, your money)?

Do the verses above make you uncomfortable or do they inspire you? Why?

What are ways you might be willing to make your faith more visible in the world? Why or why not?