

<p>Theme & Passage</p>	<p>So what does this RECONCILIATION look like where I am?</p> <p>Colossians 1: 3-14</p>
<p>Welcome</p>	<p>Share the most memorable moment of your week.</p>
<p>Worship</p>	<p>Take some time to read through the selections of words and images from our recent 36 hours of prayer (see Extra below). Let these lead you into conversation and prayer.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>How are you connecting with our theme for the year? Share around this and then get into some prayer together...</p>
<p>Word/ Read & Reflect</p>	<p><i>Read together from Colossians 1: 3-14. Share your immediate responses to Paul's words.</i></p> <p>Paul gives heartfelt thanks to God for the faith and love of the believers in Colossae. He has heard how the gospel message has born fruit in their lives and he longs to see this more and more. To this end he prays that God will fill them with the knowledge of his will <i>through the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives</i>, that they might <i>live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power...</i></p> <p>Paul's words give us a vivid picture of what it means for our lives to be impacted by the Gospel. As we have been exploring in recent weeks: our reconciliation with God leads us into God's reconciling work. In this we know his power at work in us.</p> <p>On Sunday, we were giving thought to what all this means in our daily lives. We were asking what this ministry of reconciliation (Kingdom fruitfulness) looks like in the places we live and work (our context). To explore this, I interviewed Diana Steadman about her role as an occupational chaplain at Kingston Hospital. Diana's sermon came in this format.</p> <p><i>What can you recall from the sermon/interview?</i></p> <p><i>Consider the following questions, posed to Diana on Sunday, with your own context in mind. It will probably be best to break into pairs or threes for this.</i></p> <p>1 Where and how do you spend the majority of your time each week? (For some this will be a workplace or place of learning, for others voluntary work or keeping house or caring for loved ones.)</p> <p>2 What does reconciliation mean/look like in this place/context?</p> <p>3 How does your work/role play a part in God's reconciling work?</p> <p>4 What are you learning about being a minister of reconciliation where God has placed you?</p>
<p>Working it out</p>	<p>What might you do differently in the coming week as a result of this meeting?</p> <p>Pray for one another to follow through on any decisions made.</p>

Extra	<p>Words and Pictures from our recent 36 hours of Prayer:</p> <p><i>Our theme for 2019, 'All things reconciled', was conveyed powerfully via the creative displays around the cross and in the lounge area, prompting reflection upon and response to three big ideas:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Christ's redeeming work on the Cross, reconciling us to God2 The invitation to enter more fully into the communion made possible by the Cross3 Our call and involvement in God's reconciling work, in hearts, homes, communities, nations and the all of Creation. <p><i>Words and pictures were gathered during our worship and sharing time on Sunday evening, which confirmed and threw further light on these important aspects of our theme:</i></p> <p>There were a number that stressed the importance of our communion with Christ as the basis of our involvement in God's work: a rhythm of seeking God that brings momentum... a balance of seeking God and moving into action...</p> <p>There was a word about 'softening our hearts' - letting God move us from the inside ('from all indifference, set us apart').</p> <p>Some sensed God's pleasure in some of the initiatives we are involved in - e.g., Anna Chaplaincy - tangible expressions of God's reconciling work in the world.</p> <p>There were several reminders about the importance of attending to broken relationships - no 'cold shoulder forgiveness' will do. Linked to this there was a word about attending to 'social/community environments' that are polluted (not just physical environments).</p> <p>Some of the words and pictures were about small beginnings (don't despise) and small steps: our involvement in God's reconciling work may seem insignificant - yet God is able to do so much more than we could imagine and take our obedient steps into his great purposes.</p> <p>Following on from small beginnings and steps - we were also reminded that God has promised to bring it all home: to complete what is begun.</p> <p>There was a word about bringing things into alignment.</p> <p>There was an encouragement to 'complete the work God has given you' (Paul's encouragement to Archippus at the end of Colossians). All are called, each with particular work to do (Get it done!)</p> <p>One of our youngest members, aged 7, asked God to speak to her. She saw a picture of a lush green meadow, in which she was playing. Then she saw a 'crumbly place' and, standing in it she asked God, "What do you want me to do?"</p>
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