

## Scripture for Sunday, September 10, 2023

### **Ephesians 2:11-22** (Common English Bible)

<sup>11</sup> So remember that once you were Gentiles by physical descent, who were called “uncircumcised” by Jews who are physically circumcised. <sup>12</sup> At that time you were without Christ. You were aliens rather than citizens of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of God’s promise. In this world you had no hope and no God. <sup>13</sup> But now, thanks to Christ Jesus, you who once were so far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

<sup>14</sup> Christ is our peace. He made both Jews and Gentiles into one group. With his body, he broke down the barrier of hatred that divided us. <sup>15</sup> He canceled the detailed rules of the Law so that he could create one new person out of the two groups, making peace. <sup>16</sup> He reconciled them both as one body to God by the cross, which ended the hostility to God.

<sup>17</sup> When he came, he announced the good news of peace to you who were far away from God and to those who were near. <sup>18</sup> We both have access to the Father through Christ by the one Spirit. <sup>19</sup> So now you are no longer strangers and aliens. Rather, you are fellow citizens with God’s people, and you belong to God’s household. <sup>20</sup> As God’s household, you are built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. <sup>21</sup> The whole building is joined together in him, and it grows up into a temple that is dedicated to the Lord. <sup>22</sup> Christ is building you into a place where God lives through the Spirit.