

April 11, 2021
Second Sunday of Easter
We're All In This Together

Rev. Lori McPherson
Preaching

First Reading ~ *Psalms 133*

See how good, how pleasant it is
for God's people to live together as one!
It is like precious oil on Aaron's head
running down on his beard,
running down to the collar of his robes.
It is like the dew of Mount Hermon,
falling on the hills of Zion.
For that is where YHWH bestows the blessing--
life that never ends.

Second Reading ~ *Acts 4:32-35*

The community of believers was of one mind and one heart.
None of them claimed anything as their own;
rather, everything was held in common.
The apostles continued to testify with great power to the resurrection of Jesus Christ,
and they were all given great respect;
nor was anyone needy among them,
for those who owned property or houses would sell them
and give the money to the apostles.
It was then distributed to any members who might be in need.

Third Reading ~ *adapted from Dietrich Bonhoeffer in Life Together*

We have common petitions, common thanks, common intercessions to bring to God,
and we should do so joyfully and confidently.
Here all fear of one another, all timidity about praying freely in one's own words
in the presence of others may be put aside where--
in all simplicity and soberness--
the common prayer is lifted to God by one of those gathered.
Likewise all comment and criticism must cease whenever words of prayer--
however halting--
are offered in the name of Jesus Christ.
It is in fact the most normal thing in the common Christian life to pray together.