

Communion: Part 6—Re-Member Text: Psalm 84

Warming Up

Questions:

1. *What is most meaningful to you about gathering with others to worship on a Sunday?*
2. *What is most difficult for you in gathering with others to worship on a Sunday?*

Digging In

Read **Psalm 84:1-12**.

Questions: *What is it that the psalmist longs for and how have you experienced that in your life?*

The psalmist longs to be in the Temple because he longs to be in the presence of the living God. What is it about the Temple that reveals God's presence? The language moves from "my" to "they". The psalmist locates the gathered community there.

Questions:

1. *How does the presence of others help you experience the presence of God?*
2. *How does the presence of others distract you from experiencing the presence of God?*
3. *How can we as a community help others experience the presence of God when we gather?*

Notice one of the important ways the gathered people of God aid each other in deepening their communion with God...

Read **Psalm 145:3-12**.

The people of God help others experience the presence of God by telling their stories of their encounters with God. And then the psalmist joins in with his own. And then, in verse 12, we hear the result of that: that *all* people might know and experience the presence of God.

Questions:

1. *What story do you remember someone share that deepened your faith, trust, or connection with God?*
2. *What story do you have to share of experiencing the resurrected Christ in your own life?*

Sending Out

Read **Psalm 84:5**.

The people of God set aside special times of year to go on pilgrimage to the Temple in order to be together to worship, give, and remind each other of the presence of God. They set aside a special time each week—sabbath—to gather to do the same in their smaller local communities. In both cases, they made a commitment to show up for each other. Something special happens when we make this commitment to gathering together.

Read **Psalm 84:6-7**.

As they go through the Valley of Baka, which means the Valley of Sorrow or Dryness, they experience their thirst quenched and their lives watered by God. Their commitment to showing up for each other creates an oasis in their journeys *even when they are apart*.

Questions:

1. *Why do you think the gathered community of faith has been so important to the people of God for thousands of years?*
2. *What would we miss out on if our faith journey was a solitary one?*
3. *How have you experienced refreshment from God in the gathered community of faith?*
4. *What can we do as a church to help each other deepen our communion with Christ?*

Closing

Take a moment in silence to come before God and ask the question, *"What word or phrase or idea or moment does God want me to remember from this morning and carry with me this week?"*

Close with prayer.