



Liturgy Notes for the week of January 21, 2018

Liturgy: The Work of the People

Friends and strangers, passionate believers, hopeful skeptics: All are welcome as full participants or thoughtful observers.

If you are visiting, you'll find a card in the pew pocket explaining our liturgy. Fill out the back side and drop it in the basket to keep in touch.

This Week's Reading: John 15:12-17

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other."

Notes

See You Throughout the Week

- Lunch today: Hopdoddy in the Triangle
- Super Bowl of Chili—February 4



Practicing the Way of Jesus for North/Central Austin
AustinMustardSeed.org

Community Group Discussion Guide

Community Groups are "Families on Mission."

Learn more at AustinMustardSeed.org/CommunityGroups.

Use this guide to facilitate discussion in your group and in personal reflection.

Check-in

Always begin by checking in. This is a time for everyone in the group to speak briefly. You may choose to always use the basic check-in question "what was one high point and one low point from your past week?" or come up with an "icebreaker" of your own.

Sermon Synopsis

We cultivate relationships that lead to both friendship and formation.

God exists as a relationship, and so we too recognize that we are created to be in genuine connection with others. We long to have friendships that are both safe and stretching, so we prioritize embodied and committed relationships with one another.

Discussion Questions

1. Take a moment to read John 15:12-17. Jesus says "love each other as I have loved you." What is Jesus love like? When have you experienced it?
2. Jesus tells us to love each other, and then says that we will "bear fruit." What do you think that means? Discuss relationships you have had that bore fruit and those that did not? What was the difference?
3. Jesus makes it clear that his followers should love each other. Discuss some times when loving other Jesus followers was easy and times it was difficult. What was the difference?
4. Consider the people you know who have meaningful relationships. What do you think they do well? What could you emulate?
5. Consider the sentence "we cultivate relationships that lead to both friendship and formation." Is that something you desire? Why or why not?
6. How is your Community Group doing at cultivating this type of relationship? What could you do this year to get better at this?

Our Shared Blessing

Close your time together by reading together this blessing:

Austin Mustard Seed, may our pursuit of the practices of Jesus lead us to know and live with the vulnerability of Jesus.

May we fill physical spaces with our intention to know one another and be known by one another.

May we embrace connection with one another in true relationship as a demonstration of hope for our disconnecting neighbors.