

Sermon Series: The Pilgrim's Progress
"Traversing the Valley of Humiliation"
by Rev. John C. Tittle

Scripture Readings: *Romans 10:9-13*

⁹If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. ¹¹As the Scriptures tell us, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced." ¹²Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. ¹³For "Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved."

Discussion Questions:

1. What jumps out at you about this passage?
2. What do you think will bring unity to our country in a polarized time?
3. How was Paul seeking to bring unity between Jews and Gentiles in the church?
4. The earliest creed in the church was simple: Jesus is Lord. What does this mean for you? A second early creed specified the first creed: God raised Jesus from the dead. Why is resurrection such an important foundation to our faith? How do these two realities unite the church?
5. Paul talks about the twofold nature of our belief: declaring our faith with our lips and believing in our heart. Why are both our mouths and our hearts so important for faith?
6. There is a promise from the Hebrew Scriptures quoted: Anyone who trusts in him will not be disgraced. What does this mean for us?
7. The Apostle Paul also says, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Do you think Paul means everyone or are there certain groups that are excluded?
8. How might this passage help us understand and experience World Communion Sunday on a deeper level?
9. The church is composed of many different kinds of people who follow Jesus. As Paul says, "we have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him." We are different, but have the same Lord. How will that help the church be less divisive and more at peace?
10. Why is witness—sharing and showing our faith in both word and deed so important to Christianity?