

3rd@10 19th September 2021



Stronger Together



Welcome

Prayer

Lord, May your goodness and love be present amongst us today.
Bless our gathering with unity, hope and vision.
Build in us all a deep respect for one another so that your church may be one.
We pray you will stir your hope within our hearts and renew our faith.
May your vision fill our lives as we seek to reveal your love.
In the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

Reading 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 (New International Version)

Unity and Diversity in the Body

¹² Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For we were all baptized by^[a] one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. ¹⁴ Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.
¹⁵ Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be?¹⁸ But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. ¹⁹ If they were all one part, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, but one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” ²² On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and the parts that we think are less honourable we treat with special honour. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, ²⁴ while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honour to the parts that lacked it, ²⁵ so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.²⁶ If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it.
²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

Saying Sorry with actions :

Dear God, thank you for loving us and caring for us. We know that we make mistakes, we let you down and we are not the best we can be, nor the best you long us to be.

Using one hand, make a fist

We are sorry for the times we have got angry with other people.

Point away from yourself with an index finger

We are sorry for the times we have blamed others and seen things wrong in others without recognising how much is also wrong in us

Close up your hand and hold it close to your chest

We are sorry for the times we have kept things selfishly to ourselves and not shared with others in need

Put your hand over your mouth

We are sorry for foolish or unkind words we have spoken which have hurt other people

Put your hand over your eyes

We are sorry for the times we have deliberately not chosen to see the good things we could have done to help others

Put your hand over one ear

We are sorry for the times we have not listened to the cries of those who are poor or who suffer injustice

After a short pause ask everyone to hold out that hand, with open palm upwards.

Say:

Jesus says, if you are tired from carrying heavy burdens, come to me and I will give you rest. So we bring all that we are to Jesus – all our sins and our failure to love. Thank you that you died for us so that we might be forgiven, and start a new life in the power of your Holy Spirit.

Ask everyone to trace the shape of a cross on the palm of that hand.

Amen!

Next 3rd@10 on October 17th!