

1. Take a moment to go around the circle and describe what this last week has been like for you (if you are by yourself, spend some time in meditation examining what this last week has been like for you). Feel free to say 'pass'. Close this time by praying for each other.
2. Read Colossians 3:1-14 slowly.

3 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. 7 You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. 8 But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. 9 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. 11 Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

3. What have been some of your favorite "church events"? (i.e. where anyone from the church and/or community were invited).
4. How might belonging to a local church - which transcends like-mindedness, transcends how you vote, and transcends ethnicity - be an arena for transformation?
5. The sermon suggested that many church splits are lost opportunities for growth. What is meant by this statement, and do you agree?
6. Is there anything from the bible text, sermon, or discussion that you would like to hold in your heart and mind going forward?
7. Read Colossians 3:1-14 again, after asking the following questions (if you don't have time to do this within the group, encourage each other to do so prior to going to bed this evening):
 - Is there anything in this passage that nudges you to adore God?
 - Is there anything in this passage that nudges you to confess sin?
 - Is there anything in this passage that nudges you to give thanks?
 - Is there anything in this passage that nudges you to petition God?