

Madison Heights Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
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MADISON HEIGHTS MESSENGER

No. 16

October 16, 2019

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A Table of Giving

In Acts Chapter Two we see the ideal church. They were all gathered together as one mind and heart for teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, and prayers. This is the church that Jesus set up and left into the hands of his disciples. This is the ideal church. As a contemporary church, our main goal is to be the ideal church within the framework of contemporary society. We should all gather together as one mind and heart for teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, and prayers. Whereas, mainstream society is looking to have its own needs met, we focus on being the church that Jesus set up.

We as Disciples of Christ are called to a table where Christ himself is the host. A table where we can come together to celebrate the sacrifice that Jesus Christ made for the sake of the world. This sacrifice is not a bloody appeasement for a wrathful God. This sacrifice is based on love. This sacrifice is a gift of love from a God of love.

We are called to the table by Christ. Jesus emptied himself and being found in human likeness, in human form, taking the form of a slave, he walked among us, preached to us, taught us, and healed us when we were sick. Jesus touched us when we believed we were untouchable, gave us hope, and continues to give us hope when we feel the world is hopeless. Jesus goes with us in our deepest, darkest night, and in our deepest pain. Jesus goes with us even to the point of death; even to the point of death on a cross. Therefore, because of this supreme gift from God to the world, God has exalted him and given him a name that is above every name. That of the name of Jesus, ever knee should bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

The table we are invited to as his disciples is a table of giving. This is the table of God's gift of abundant life to us as the family of God. This is God's gift of abundant life through us to the entire world which is the family of God. As we come to this table we become friends with God. We are welcome; we are invited, via a divine invitation. We are not strangers. Invited guests are friends and family. We become a family of God. In the eating of the meal we understand that God's gift to the world, and our gift to the world, lies at the very heart of our faith as Disciples of Christ. God has created a world of abundant life for all. God calls us to offer freely, and with boldness, abundant life for the world.

This is a great feast that God expects us to enjoy together at the table of hospitality. Many various places throughout the Bible we are taught to care for aliens, orphans, and widows. They are to come and eat their fill so that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work that you undertake. The gift of the people to God becomes an act of celebration for the people. We share a table, a feast with God. We are to take care of the creation that God created and loves and left to our care. It is obvious that God intends that there be enough for everyone, to not only survive but to thrive. God requires us in our giving and celebrating to be mindful of those who are poor and are vulnerable. The table that we come to is a table of oneness, a table of love, a table of giving.

George