



Heartbeats along the way: The Grateful & Singing Heart

Colossians 3:16. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.

In his brief letter to the house churches at Colossae, a city in what is now modern Turkey, Paul encouraged these new Christians in the Way of Christ. It doesn't appear that Paul ever visited Colossae. But that didn't prevent him from sharing the Gospel, giving sound advice for living in this world, and offering strong words of encouragement.

Imagine if Paul learned about Carlisle UMC and wrote (or e-mailed) us a letter. What do you think he would say? I imagine he would commend us for our trust in God for creating the Spring Garden Campus. I can imagine that he would congratulate us on our involvement beyond our church walls. I can also imagine he would challenge us to continue to Live like Jesus, and always live to with gratitude in our hearts.

John and Charles Wesley believed strongly that music and singing were essential to strengthening and proclaiming our faith. Congregational singing is deep in the Methodist DNA.

As we build our new campus, let's apply Paul's advice and encouragement to each other that our hearts may also be grateful and full of music. Let's prepare ourselves to arrive mission-ready: to teach, encourage, and if necessary, admonish one another. And let's always sing songs that reflect our gratitude for God's love for us.

A key passage from Colossians is below.

"O Heavenly Father, You are surrounded by choirs of angels praising You. We here below wish to praise you in song that comes from deep within our hearts. Hear our solos and group songs of praise and gratitude. We bless you with all the joy our grateful hearts can generate. Hallelujah to Your Holy Name! Amen."

~ cl reynolds

Colossians 3: 12-17. As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.