

May 10, 2020

“I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life”

Prayer of Illumination: Prepare our hearts, O Lord, to accept your word. Silence in us any voice but your own; that, hearing, we may also obey your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (The Worship Book, 1970, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.))

Scripture Reading: John 14:1-14

Devotion:

The Early Church of the First Century was often known by many as the "People of The Way." These early Christians would demonstrate how to live the Christian way of life through their acts of preaching, teaching, healing, and giving alms to the poor. Many of these church groups were small. They would meet in secretive places. They would hide from the Roman authorities who persecuted them. To help others join their fellowship they would invite them to follow certain common symbols like an anchor or a fish pointing the direction which a person would follow in order to attend the fellowship of believers. The more popular way was to have a designated guide meet the newcomers at a secret designation and actually walk them to the secret meeting place. Figuratively these guides would walk hand-in-hand to show people "The Way" to church.

Have you ever thought how you would guide people to our fellowship of "The Way," our church? How would you direct them to Jesus as the Way, the Truth, and the Life?

I am very grateful to be a part of a social culture here at Taymouth Presbyterian Church which values cooperation with others in showing what it means to be a "People of the Way." We embrace cooperating with our fellow Presbyterian Churches of Lake Huron Presbytery by having Elders and the Pastor attend meetings and fellowship opportunities. We embrace the spirit of ecumenism with our sister churches in Birch Run and Burt for Vacation Bible School, Thanksgiving and Good Friday Services, the Lenten Soup Suppers, and to support one another's ministry like Saints Francis and Clare Community Food Pantry, the Baby Panty housed in Christ Lutheran Church, and Martha's Clothing Closet located in the

United Methodist Church of Birch Run. The Fellowship of the Way is alive and well here at Taymouth Presbyterian Church by way of our Missions Committee, Presbyterian Women, Children Sunday School, The Prayer Circle, the Choir, and the Communication and Social Media Outreach Committee.

The best way to show people how to become part of "The Way" movement here at Taymouth is to take a person's hand and put it into your hand and say, "I will show you "The Way" and guide you to the "People of the Way" by taking you myself."

Know that you are an intimate part of being the Way, the Truth, and the Life here at Taymouth Presbyterian Church.

Amen.

Prayers of Intercessory and Supplication: (Ask people what they wish to pray for today, briefly inquire about it, and pray for them. Ask them to join in your prayer.)

The Lord's Prayer: (Say the prayer in unison.) Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Blessing: "The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord be kind and gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace." (Numbers 6:24-26)