

# Called to Community

## Growing

### Day 5

*Psalm 133 ... kindred live together in unity*

*Isaiah 58:6-10 ... loose the chains of injustice*

*John 4:39-42 ... and many more believed because of his word*

*Acts 2:42-47 ... the Lord added to their numbers*



How does one measure growth with respect to a Holy community? Often, we talk about the number of people in the pews, but I wonder if growing our relationship with God and one another is what makes our faith communities flourish. When we get relationships right, sharing what we have and finding ways to encourage and care for each other, we get closer to the unity celebrated in the psalm. I also wonder what it is that helps us as a community grow in this way.

Meeting and speaking with Jesus, the Samaritan woman couldn't keep the encounter to herself. She just had to run and tell others about him. Those that came to hear Jesus for themselves lingered to soak in his teaching for two days and believed. When we open our hearts to being with God, our relationships grow.

During these Covid times, I have come to realize how much I need community to nurture my growth. Recently my email was hacked, exposing me and others to potential fraud. I was mortified by how others were put at risk, but the words of Isaiah returned to me like a healing balm. As I prayed for recipients of the fraudulent email to be protected, a rainbow on the wall reminded me that light shines through the darkness. I was overwhelmed by the way love showed up in calls, texts and emails. What initially was a huge problem, brought gifts. Returning those calls and messages deepened relationships and reconnected me to some people I hadn't seen or heard from in years. I was reminded of how seeds of love sown over the years continue to grow and nourish us through community in times of trouble.

*D. Kucharczyk*

### For Reflection and Journaling:

1. When have I been so drawn to a message that I had to tell others?
2. How have I grown through a time of trouble?

### Meditative Prayer:

*Gracious God,  
thank you for all the ways you remind us of your loving presence.  
May bringing others into your light help us grow.  
Amen.*