

Belonging: *"I will build my church" - Jesus*

Forgiving the Church

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Psalm 130

October 20, 2024

Introduction: You belong. And we say it a lot. Because it tells us something about you. And it tells us something about us. Because you can't belong by yourself. Belonging is a thing that requires others. To whom do we belong? And with whom do we belong? And for what purpose do we belong? These are questions Jesus answers like no one else before or since. He says, "I will build my church?" What does it mean to belong to Jesus and to the church he's still building?

Prayer: Everlasting God, we come before you to study what you have given us in the scriptures. Help us to see together what you want us to learn. Amen

Review: Who did you share Christian fellowship with this week? How did you make that a priority?

Read: Psalm 130

Discussion:

1. For what are you waiting? What are you hoping for that seems a long way off?
2. How are you waiting? Are you waiting in hope, in despair or somewhere in between?
3. With whom are you waiting? How are you expressing your need to God? How are you sharing your needs with others in the church?
4. In the Apostles Creed belief in 'the forgiveness of sins' comes right after affirming the church and 'the communion of saints.' Why are confession and forgiveness necessary practices in a body of believers?
5. What is the basis for the Psalmist's hope? What aspects of God's character are mentioned that provide the basis for this hope?

Application: Talk to God about what you may need to confess and what you may need to forgive. Ask for help in knowing how to express that.

Prayer: Holy God, Thank you for your merciful forgiveness and for your righteous justice. Our hope is anchored in your unfailing love and full redemption. Amen