

## Joy In The Journey: Standing Together in the Battle



### Welcome to the NewDay Worship Gathering!

As we prepare for worship we invite you to reflect on our prayer for the NewDay body from *Philippians 1*:

*3 I thank my God every time I remember you. 4 In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, 6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*

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### **Having the Mindset of Christ in Our Relationships**

*Philippians 2:5-8*

- <sup>5</sup> In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:
- <sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;
- <sup>7</sup> rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.
- <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!

### **Call to Worship (Psalm 67)**

**Leader:** *May God be gracious to us, and bless us, and cover us with the radiance of grace.*

**All:** May your way be known everywhere, God:  
in the hidden places of our hearts;  
in the comfort of our homes;  
in every corner of our world;  
in the farthest reaches of creation.  
You transform us; you heal our lives;  
you renew the earth and every creature:



Let our praise for you shake the rafters  
with songs of joy!

### **How Are We To Stand Together?**

Philippians 2:1-4 (The Message):

If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a

community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you care—then do me a favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends. Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand.

### **Joy In The Journey: Standing Together in the Battle**

*Philippians 1:27-2:18*

<sup>27</sup> Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup> and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. <sup>29</sup> For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, <sup>30</sup> engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

<sup>2</sup> So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, <sup>2</sup> complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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## NOTES

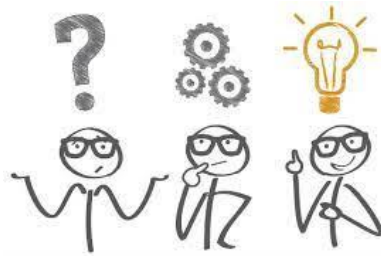
4. Peter says "By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life" (2 Peter 1:3). Paul says much the same thing in Phil. 2:2. How can God's resources help us better "agree wholeheartedly with each other, love one another, and work together with one mind and purpose" as Paul pleads in verse 3?

5. Read Philippians 2:6-11. What strikes you in this passage? How can reflecting on Christ's self-sacrifice (and God's reward for Christ's obedience) help us "have the same attitude [towards others] that Christ Jesus had" (verse 6)?

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### Respond & Apply: Individual & Small Group Discussion Guide

1. Which of the following six "pandemics" has most impacted you in the past few years (Pandemic of Disease, Distrust, Defamation, Disruption, Disorientation, Division)? How? Have these pandemics strengthened or weakened your relationships with other believers during this time?



2. What have you been doing – or what can you do – with other believers to better "stand together with one spirit and one purpose, fighting together for the faith, which is the Good News" (Philippians 1:27) during this season?

3. Are there any "enemies" intimidating you? What ways would God have you think differently about your struggles with them? (see verse 28).

6. Bonus question: Dietrich Bonhoeffer, in his final writings from a Nazi concentration camp (compiled as Letters and Papers from Prison), observed just days before he was killed: "The church is the church only when it exists for others...The church must share in the secular problems of ordinary human life, not dominating, but helping and serving. It must tell men of every calling what it means to live for Christ, to exist for others..." What do you think of his statement? How might this impact the ways you live in Christian community?

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### NewDay Envisioning Our Ministry Values

1. We are a community that has a passion to **serve others**.
2. We are a community that longs for **deeper life relationships with God and others**.
3. We are passionate about **investing in children, youth, and families**.
4. We are a people who have a desire to be **led by and experience the power of the Holy Spirit in everyday life**.

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(Online giving: <http://www.newdaycov.org/give>)