**Service of Consecration – Prayer, Confession, and Repentance**

*Based on First Covenant Church’s Behavioral Covenants*

Processional – “Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!” Hymn #113

PULSE Reveal Update – This week we had an opportunity to review an all church survey which measured our Missional Health. We learned that we are a “Critical Moment Church.” “What is a Critical Moment Church?” It is a church at a crossroads. A group of people with some significant discussions to have and intentional changes to make. While that designation was both clarifying and terrifying, we also celebrate that our church has taken several intentional steps toward growing in missional health as evidenced by my family’s presence here alongside you.

On April 27th, 2010, our church adopted a list of nine “Behavioral Covenants.” This document serves as a corporate reminder of how we are to collectively live out the call of Jesus on our lives. The statements are founded in God’s word and serve as a set of simple guidelines upon which we can measure our actions, attitudes, and behaviors. The purpose of these statements was to enhance our ability to have a civil, compassionate, and Christ honoring conversation with each other.

Our Behavioral Covenant is critically important, especially as we continue journey toward intentional, strategic, missional change with our hopes to more effectively reach our community for Christ. Our expressed desire is to be a healthy missional church—a vibrant faith community that is a compelling witness to Everett and the surrounding communities to the Gospel of Jesus. By adopting these statements, we are promising to one another to work together toward a healthier, more mission-focused relationship with each other—for our neighbors’ good and for God’s glory.

While these statements are our stated goal, anyone that has been around a church, or any organization of people, for more than a few weeks recognizes that people do not always live up to their ideals. We may have good intentions, but our intentions are not always followed by appropriate action. What do we do when we don’t live up to the standards we set for ourselves? How do we proceed when we recognize we have let our neighbors down? Or, how do we approach God when we feel we let Him down?

How a group responds to failures in conduct will determine how healthy it will be in the future. If we choose to ignore our failures, we will continue to make the same mistakes over and over again. If we hide our weakness hoping to appear “perfect,” “stronger,” or “without need,” we deceive ourselves and potentially others. When we are dishonest about our brokenness, we discourage others from sharing their own awareness of their struggles, weaknesses, and fears. If we choose to deny our short-comings, we exist in a false reality—thinking that we are perfect, that we have it all figured out, and we wonder what is wrong with them. That is anything but a compelling person. Ignoring, hiding, pretending, denying—these responses will get us nowhere in addressing our sin.

So where do we start when we are faced with our short-comings? Where does a Christ-follower begin when confronted with their sin? We start with prayer—with a focus on confession and repentance. Confession is simply telling God the ways we have messed up. Repentance is turning away from those messed up ways to the way of Jesus, a way of righteousness. As a group of people, we grow in Jesus when we are honest regarding the missteps. We grow in Jesus when we embrace the opportunity to learn from our mistakes. We grow in Jesus when we are willing to recognize that all people are “in process” and that we need each other to live into all that God desires us to be. A praying people who are practicing confession and repentance can create a powerful learning community—a community of people that can passionately join God in His mission of transforming the world.

Today, we are going to engage in a corporate exercise of prayer, confession, and repentance. This is very appropriate, as today is the first Sunday of Lent. We have entered into a season in the life of the Church, when we challenge each other to intentionally let go of things that are holding us back from embracing the abundant life that God has for us. Our prayer today is that we would whole-heartedly join together in this service to do the hard work of “letting go” of the sin that “holds us back” from all that God wants us to be. For many of us this will be truly hard work—staying engaged, focused, and quiet as we contemplate God’s call on our lives. This is truly a liturgy as liturgy means simply means “the work of the people.” Let’s express desire to work with God toward confession and repentance in joining together in this song, “Change My Heart, O God” which is hymn #372.

**1 Pastor Bill:** Our first promise to each other is about being “A Praying People”-

1. We pray for God’s guidance and for one another.

Listen to these words from Proverbs 3:5-6.

**Reader 1:** “Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; He's the one who will keep you on track. Don't assume that you know it all. Run to God! Run from evil!”

**Pastor Bill:** When it really comes down to it, many of us would rather move through life quickly by ourselves, than walk slowly together. Yet the old African proverb is still true, “If you want to go quickly, go alone, but if you want to go far, go together.” At First Covenant Church, we celebrate that we have come over one-hundred years together. But we have much farther to go! We need God’s guidance, wisdom, and presence to empower us to live life to its fullest. But what do we do when we can’t feel his presence among us? Listen to the words of 2 Chronicles 7:14:

**Reader 2:** “If I ever shut off the supply of rain from the skies or order the locusts to eat the crops or send a plague on my people, and my people, my God-defined people, respond by humbling themselves, praying, seeking my presence, and turning their backs on their wicked lives, I'll be there ready for you: I'll listen from heaven, forgive their sins, and restore their land to health.”

**Pastor Jason:** When we experience dullness, dryness, or depression, one of God’s prescriptions for these aliments is prayer. He wants us to seek Him more intently—to turn away from our selfish ways—to center our lives on Him. God’s ultimate desire for all of His people is that we live whole and healed lives—not just somewhere in a distant eternity, but right here and right now. How can we do this? Listen to James 5:15:

**Reader 1:** “Make this your common practice: Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you can live together whole and healed. The prayer of a person living right with God is something powerful to be reckoned with.”

**Pastor Jason:** So let’s take a simple step toward this practice now. Let’s pray that God would lead us in identifying something we need to confess. As you are talking with God about your shortcomings, you may want to write down the things that come to mind on the blank half sheet in your bulletin. At the end of the service, you will have an opportunity to shred this paper as a symbolic reminder that God forgives our sin when we confess our sins to Him. There will also be an opportunity for individuals to speak to a member of our prayer team about this important conversation with God. But, for now, seek God’s guidance in identifying your own sins and writing them down.

**A Time of Silence**

**Pastor Bill:** Now we enter into a time of guided prayer. After each sentence Jason and I read in unison, respond together with the phrase, “Lord, have mercy on us!”

**Pastors:** Lord, we know that you are the source of all things, yet we confess that we have not always turned to you in times of need, but rather we have turned to ourselves and we have found ourselves lacking.

**Unison:** Lord, have mercy on us!

**Pastors:** We know we have promised to pray for one another, yet we confess that more often than we would like to admit we have not followed through with our commitment.

**Unison:** Lord, have mercy on us!

**Pastors:** We know that we are sinners in need of your grace, yet we confess that we have not spoken of our sins to You or to each other and we have avoided opportunities to be authentic with our own needs.

**Unison:** Lord, have mercy on us!

**Song:** “Spirit of the Living God,” Hymn #276, first verse

*During the song, Pastor Bill will take the papers we have just read from and run them through the paper shredder.*

**2 Pastor Jason:** Our second promise to each other is about being “An Accepting People”-

1. We treat all people with respect, charity, and dignity.

Listen to Colossians 3:12-17:

**Reader 2:** “So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it.

Let the peace of Christ keep you in tune with each other, in step with each other. None of this going off and doing your own thing. And cultivate thankfulness. Let the Word of Christ—the Message—have the run of the house. Give it plenty of room in your lives. Instruct and direct one another using good common sense. And sing, sing your hearts out to God! Let every detail in your lives—words, actions, whatever—be done in the name of the Master, Jesus, thanking God the Father every step of the way.”

**Pastor Bill:**  As Christ-followers, we must treat all people with respect, charity, and dignity. Not just those who have earned our respect, but every person because each is God’s special creation. All people are to be listened to, invited in, involved in, and loved into a right relationship with God. As we enter another time of silence, who comes to mind? Who needs to experience a greater level of your respect? Pray that God would give you opportunities this week to extend the love of Jesus to them in practical and meaningful ways.

**A Time of Silence**

**Pastors:** Lord, we confess that at times we have disrespected other people simply because they were different from ourselves.

**Unison:** Lord, have mercy on us!

**Pastors:** Lord, we confess that we have limited our charity and decided that some people are not worthy of an experience of Your blessings.

**Unison:** Lord, have mercy on us!

**Pastors:** Lord, we know that all people are worthy of our protection, attention and care, yet we confess that we have not given proper dignity to all life and looked on some people as “expendable.”

**Unison:** Lord, have mercy on us!

**Song:** “Spirit of the Living God,” Hymn #276, second verse

*During the song, Pastor Bill will take the papers we have just read from and run them through the paper shredder.*

**3 Pastor Bill:** Our third promise to each other is about being “A Respectful People”-

1. We respect the office of pastor and other lay leaders.

Listen to Romans 13:1-3:

**Reader 1:** “Be a good citizen. All governments are under God. Insofar as there is peace and order, it's God's order. So live responsibly as a citizen. If you're irresponsible to the state, then you're irresponsible with God, and God will hold you responsible. Duly constituted authorities are only a threat if you're trying to get by with something. Decent citizens should have nothing to fear.”

**Pastor Jason:** Welive in a culture which largely distrusts its leaders. But God’s word tells us that “all governments” are under Him—that all leaders are seated and unseated according to His command. This is also true of Church leadership. God has given us leaders to shepherd, council, guide, correct, measure and manage all the aspects of the ministry of First Covenant Church. These are men and women of God with significant responsibility, who have given considerable time to the task of ministry and carry the burden for making good choices on our behalf. May we lift them up now in this time of silence and pray to God for forgiveness for the times that we have minimized their contribution or disrespected them or their leadership roles.

**A Time of Silence**

**Pastors:** Lord, we know that at times you call each of us to expressions of leadership, yet we confess that have skirted our own responsibility and burdened our leaders with expectations that far outweigh their ability.

**Unison:** Lord, have mercy on us!

**Pastors:** Lord, we confess that at times we have disrespected our leaders and tried to manipulate situations that are beyond our ability to control.

**Unison:** Lord, have mercy on us!

**Pastors:** Lord, You are the God who sees and knows all things and has ultimate control, yet we confess that at times we have questioned Your wisdom in giving leadership and influence to certain people or groups.

**Unison:** Lord, have mercy on us!

**Song:** “Humble Thyself” Call and Response, First Verse

*During the song, Pastor Bill will take the papers we have just read from and run them through the paper shredder.*

**4 Pastor Jason:** Our fourth promise to each other is about being “An Encouraging People”-

1. We seek to build each other up and not tear down.

Listen to Ephesians 4:31-5:2:

**Reader 2:** “Make a clean break with all cutting, backbiting, profane talk. Be gentle with one another, sensitive. Forgive one another as quickly and thoroughly as God in Christ forgave you.

Watch what God does, and then you do it, like children who learn proper behavior from their parents. Mostly what God does is love you. Keep company with him and learn a life of love. Observe how Christ loved us. His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn't love in order to get something from us but to give everything of himself to us. Love like that.”

**Pastor Bill:** It can be hard to “build each other up” and let go of “childish ways” of relationships. But God calls us to imitate Jesus, whose love was not cautious, callous, or cruel, but extravagant, bold, and full. During this time of silence, ask God for forgiveness for the people that you have “torn” down through your actions or inaction. And seek God’s direction for the people God has placed in your life who need encouragement, love, or advocacy.

**A Time of Silence**

**Pastors:** Lord, we confess that we often find it easier to laugh at the expense of other than to enter into another person’s pain and struggle.

**Unison:** Lord, have mercy on us!

**Pastors:** Lord, we know that you have called us to follow Jesus on the narrow path characterized by selflessness and sacrifice, yet we confess that our default mode in relationships is to take the easy path.

**Unison:** Lord, have mercy on us!

**Pastors:** Lord, we know that you are calling us to a more active role of an encourager, yet we confess that we are more comfortable with the passive role of observer.

**Unison:** Lord, have mercy on us!

**Song:** “Humble Thyself” Call and Response, Second Verse

*During the song, Pastor Bill will take the papers we have just read from and run them through the paper shredder.*

**5 Pastor Jason:** Our fifth promise to each other is about being “A Focused People”-

1. We seek to communicate clearly, completely, and directly and focus on the issues.

Listen to Ephesians 4:13-16:

**Reader 1:** “[God] handed out gifts of apostle, prophet, evangelist, and pastor-teacher to train Christ's followers in skilled servant work, working within Christ's body, the church, until we're all moving rhythmically and easily with each other, efficient and graceful in response to God's Son, fully mature adults, fully developed within and without, fully alive like Christ.

No prolonged infancies among us, please. We'll not tolerate babes in the woods, small children who are an easy mark for impostors. God wants us to grow up, to know the whole truth and tell it in love—like Christ in everything. We take our lead from Christ, who is the source of everything we do. He keeps us in step with each other. His very breath and blood flow through us, nourishing us so that we will grow up healthy in God, robust in love.”

**Pastor Bill:** Our vision as a church is to present everyone mature in Christ. Part of maturity is learning how to clearly communicate at the right time, to the right people, in the right manner or tone. This requires the ability to balance truth and love—not an easy task. Some of us have been heavy on the truth and rammed the Good News down the throat of our neighbors. Others have been heavy on love and forgot to mention that God has clearly communicated His behavioral expectations in the Bible. Either approach is out of whack. God is calling us to a nuanced approach in communicating with each other—with both clarity and charity, with both intentionality and ease. In this moment of silence, let’s seek God’s direction on the areas in life where we could communicate God’s love with simplicity, passion, and personal concern. Also, look to God to help refocus your attention to the essential issues you face in your most intimate relationships.

**A Time of Silence**

**Pastors:** Lord, we confess that we have exalted the immature sinner rather than the seasoned saint.

**Unison:** Lord, have mercy on us!

**Pastors:** Lord, we confess that we have majored on the minors and minored on the majors.

**Unison:** Lord, have mercy on us!

**Pastors:** Lord, we know that you have called us to engage in face to face relationships, yet we confess that when faced with a concern, complaint, or a simple curiosity we would rather go behind someone’s back and engage in gossip than to address the issues head on.

**Unison:** Lord, have mercy on us!

**Song:** “Breathe On Me Breathe of God” Hymn #283, verse 1

*During the song, Pastor Bill will take the papers we have just read from and run them through the paper shredder.*

**6 Pastor Bill:** Our sixth promise to each other is about being “A Harmonious People”-

1. We accept disagreement, conflict, and evaluation as normal and natural, seeking to live in harmony with each other.

Listen to Romans 12:16-18:

**Reader 1:**  “Bless your enemies; no cursing under your breath. Laugh with your happy friends when they're happy; share tears when they're down. Get along with each other; don't be stuck-up. Make friends with nobodies; don't be the great somebody. Don't hit back; discover beauty in everyone. If you've got it in you, get along with everybody. Don't insist on getting even; that's not for you to do. "I'll do the judging," says God. "I'll take care of it."

**Pastor Jason:** “Bless your enemies.” Most of us can hardly find time to bless our spouse, our family, our friends or our neighbors. It is much easier to just leave our enemies alone. Yet enemy love is the way of Jesus. Listen to the words of Paul from prison in Ephesians 4:1-3:

**Reader 2: “**In light of all this, here's what I want you to do. While I'm locked up here, a prisoner for the Master, I want you to get out there and walk—better yet, run!—on the road God called you to travel. I don't want any of you sitting around on your hands. I don't want anyone strolling off, down some path that goes nowhere. And mark that you do this with humility and discipline—not in fits and starts, but steadily, pouring yourselves out for each other in acts of love, alert at noticing differences and quick at mending fences.”

**Pastor Bill:** This journey toward God is an effort that requires our action, yet with movement comes friction. Are there conflicts, disagreements and tensions? Maybe these unsettling situations are actually God-ordained opportunities to work at the ministry of reconciliation—to bring peace and harmony to a part of the world where it doesn’t currently exist. During this time of silence identify the places in your life where there is tension and ask God if he might be calling you to extend His peace.

**A Time of Silence**

**Pastors:** Lord, we know that you have called us to love our enemies, yet we confess that we struggle to show love those whom we genuinely love.

**Unison:** Lord, have mercy on us!

**Pastors:** Lord, we know that you have called us to a ministry of reconciliation, yet we confess that we would rather run away from situations laden with conflict, disagreement, and strife.

**Unison:** Lord, have mercy on us!

**Pastors:** Lord, we know that conflict is a part of life, yet we confess that we have allowed disagreements, division, and contention to hamper our involvement in living out Your mission in this world through Your Church.

**Unison:** Lord, have mercy on us!

**Song:** “Breathe On Me Breathe of God” Hymn #283, verse 2

*During the song, Pastor Bill will take the papers we have just read from and run them through the paper shredder.*

**7 Pastor Jason:** Our seventh promise to each other is about being “A Forgiving People”-

1. We accept that forgiveness is a process and promise to work toward forgiving one another each day. Listen to 1 Peter 3:8-12:

**Reader 1:**  “Summing up: Be agreeable, be sympathetic, be loving, be compassionate, be humble. That goes for all of you, no exceptions. No retaliation. No sharp-tongued sarcasm. Instead, bless—that's your job, to bless. You'll be a blessing and also get a blessing."

**Pastor Bill:** Forgiveness is not optional for the follower of Christ. It is a process that requires the Spirit of God at work in our lives. There is no formula, program, or proven technique for getting to a place of genuine forgiveness. But that doesn’t mean it isn’t attainable for nothing is impossible with God. Listen to the words of Jesus in Matthew 6:12-15:

**Reader 2:** “The world is full of so-called prayer warriors who are prayer-ignorant. They're full of formulas and programs and advice, peddling techniques for getting what you want from God. Don't fall for that nonsense. This is your Father you are dealing with, and he knows better than you what you need. With a God like this loving you, you can pray very simply. Like this:   
   Our Father in heaven, Reveal who you are.   
   Set the world right;   
   Do what's best— as above, so below.   
   Keep us alive with three square meals.   
   Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others.   
   Keep us safe from ourselves and the Devil.   
   You're in charge! You can do anything you want!   
   You're ablaze in beauty!   
      Yes. Yes. Yes.

In prayer there is a connection between what God does and what you do. You can't get forgiveness from God, for instance, without also forgiving others. If you refuse to do your part, you cut yourself off from God's part.”

**Pastor Jason:** Let us not refuse to do our part, but rather offer forgiveness generously to those who have wronged us. Be faithful—take a step toward forgiveness by lifting up to God those who have wronged you in the past.

**A Time of Silence**

**Pastors:** Lord, we confess that we have often looked at forgiving others, ourselves, and You as something optional.

**Unison:** Lord, have mercy on us!

**Pastors:** Lord, we know that you have called us to forgive others, yet we confess that we have harbored resentment toward others and held back forgiveness in an effort to maintain a false sense of control.

**Unison:** Lord, have mercy on us!

**Pastors:** Lord, we know that you have offered forgiveness to us in Jesus and expect us to pass forgiveness on without hesitation, yet we confess that sometimes we find forgiving others, ourselves, and even You, God, very difficult to do.

**Unison:** Lord, have mercy on us!

**Song:** “Breathe On Me Breathe of God” Hymn #283, verse 3

*During the song, Pastor Bill will take the papers we have just read from and run them through the paper shredder.*

**8 Pastor Bill:** Our eighth promise to each other is about being “Wholestic People”-

1. We seek to discover what is the common good for God’s church as a whole, not what may be best for us or for some small group in the church.

Listen to Acts 2:42-47:

**Reader 1:**  “That day about three thousand took him at his word, were baptized and were signed up. They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers.

Everyone around was in awe—all those wonders and signs done through the apostles! And all the believers lived in a wonderful harmony, holding everything in common. They sold whatever they owned and pooled their resources so that each person's need was met.

They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they praised God. People in general liked what they saw. Every day their number grew as God added those who were saved."

**Pastor Jason:** What a beautiful description of the people of God living out a compelling lifestyle! At the heart of the Christian movement is the gathering, the synago, the ecclesia, a faith community, a group of people who hold things in common. And the Church is to be a people characterized by their radical sharing! During this time of silence think of all the things in your home that you could share with someone and talk to God about whether or not He would like you to give those things away.

**A Time of Silence**

**Pastors:** Lord, we know that you have called us to life together, to a common meal, and to corporate prayer, yet we confess that we have become more comfortable with life on our own.

**Unison:** Lord, have mercy on us!

**Pastors:** Lord, we confess that we have held tight to the gifts, talents, and possessions you have given us to steward rather than looking for meaningful ways to give them away.

**Unison:** Lord, have mercy on us!

**Pastors:** Lord, we confess that arewe have looked to our own needs only rather thanbroadening our perspective to the needs of the whole.

**Unison:** Lord, have mercy on us!

**Song:** “Breathe On Me Breathe of God” Hymn #283, verse 4

*During the song, Pastor Bill will take the papers we have just read from and run them through the paper shredder.*

**9 Pastor Jason:** Our final promise to each other is about being “A Good News People”-

1. We are committed to the gospel even if inconvenienced. (Acts 10:9-23; I Cor. 9:19-23; Acts 1:8)

Listen to the words of Paul from 1 Corinthians 9:19-23:

**Reader 2:**  “Even though I am free of the demands and expectations of everyone, I have voluntarily become a servant to any and all in order to reach a wide range of people: religious, nonreligious, meticulous moralists, loose-living immoralists, the defeated, the demoralized—whoever. I didn't take on their way of life. I kept my bearings in Christ—but I entered their world and tried to experience things from their point of view. I've become just about every sort of servant there is in my attempts to lead those I meet into a God-saved life. I did all this because of the Message. I didn't just want to talk about it; I wanted to be in on it!"

**Pastor Bill:** This is one of the great paradoxes of the Christian faith—free and slave all tied up in one. Freed by Jesus from the brokenness of sin to follow God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength, yet led by His Spirit into the broken places—places in need of exactly what we represent—God’s presence, grace, and mercy. So where are you being asked to extended the grace and love of God to another? These are people to add to your One Step Card that was distributed a few weeks ago. Pray that God would bring to mind the people He has placed in your life with whom who need you to share the Good News of Jesus. Commit to taking a step in their direction, even if that movement feels like an inconvenience.

**A Time of Silence**

**Pastors:** Lord, we know that we’ve been drawn to You by the Good News of Jesus Christ, yet we confess that we have missed chances to be bearers of Your Good News to others.

**Unison:** Lord, have mercy on us!

**Pastors:** Lord, we know that with the Good News comes both blessing and responsibility; we confess that at time we have hoarded the blessing and skirted the responsibility.

**Unison:** Lord, have mercy on us!

**Pastors:** Lord, we know that the live in a convenience-minded culture and we confess that we have often chosen convenience over the challenging work of walking in the way of Jesus.

**Unison:** Lord, have mercy on us!

**Worship through Giving Announcement – Pastor Bill**

**Song:** “Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)” Hymn #341 w/ Chorus

*During the song, Pastor Bill will take the papers we have just read from and run them through the paper shredder.*

**A Time of Renewal, Commitment, and Blessing**

**Pastor Jason:** As we close the service, we want to provide an opportunity for you to linger in the presence of God and these people. We have the gift of time and space. Let’s take full advantage of it!

Some of us still have work to do in the confession and repentance process. Some of us just need to rest in God’s presence as His forgiven children.

You may have written down you sins on the blank sheet of paper and are ready to surrender them to God and experience His forgiveness. Remember that when we confess our sins God is faithful and justified to forgive our sins. We invite you to utilize the paper shredder as a symbolic reminder of this reality. May your sins become forgotten clutter at the edges of our lives and the cross stand at the center of your being as it does in this gathering.

You may have identified something tangible that another person might be able to use, maybe you can post a note about it on our Barter Board in the lobby after our gathering.

You may have identified areas in your life were you need to work toward forgiveness. Our prayer team is here to pray with you and for you as you work towards letting go of those things that hold you back. They can also lift up other needs that have come to your attention.

You may have realized that you need to seek the forgiveness from someone here in this room. Seek them out and start that conversation today. Maybe that discussion will need to continue over coffee or lunch. If so, commit to leaving here together to work things out or making a time this week to do the hard work of finding peace in your relationship.

Maybe this experience of confession and repentance was refreshing and meaningful to you and you would like to rededicate your life to Jesus by remembering baptism. The baptismal font is open for you to dip into. Maybe you are feeling led to participate in baptism for the first time. Any of our pastors would love to talk with you about that next step.

Many of you received the Pastor’s Pondering article I wrote with information about our Lenten Fast. You may want to share your chosen fast focus with one of the pastors of this church. Sharing your commitment is a good step toward increasing your accountability and transparency with your spiritual disciplines.

Whatever might be your next step, we encourage you to take it. Don’t miss the chance to take one step closer to God and each other today!

**Benediction:** Go in peace as a praying, accepting, respecting, encouraging, focused, harmonious, forgiving, wholestic, Good News people of God! Amen!