

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

LOOK

As much as we long for unity and community with each other, it is a rare and fragile gift. Two or three people means two or three egos and opinions. Conflict is inevitable but not insurmountable.

1. Share an experience of unity with coworkers, friends, family, or neighbors. What brought you together? Was it fleeting or lasting?

BOOK *Matthew 18:15-20*

This “conflict resolution” advice from Jesus is sandwiched between the parable of the lost sheep and the command to forgive one another seventy-seven times.

1. We can hear this passage as permission to dismiss a toxic church member or as a call to retain a lost brother or sister, or a little of both. How do you hear Jesus’ advice?
2. What does it mean to have been given the power to “bind” or “loose”?
3. What condition does Jesus give for answering our prayers? How difficult is that?

TOOK

We have no choice but to live under this blue dome on our island home together. And as Rev. Lisa said, the divine gorilla glue that holds us together is the common mission of serving the Lord.

1. What is the glue that holds you to St. Tim’s?
2. Where else besides church do you yearn to feel the presence of God as you gather with others?