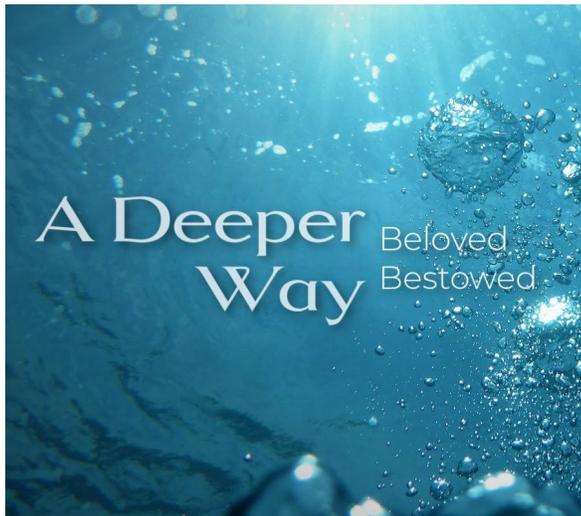


A DEEPER WAY: BELOVED & BESTOWED

September 24, 2023

Michael Swartzentruber, Senior Minister



Luke 22:24-30

24 A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. ²⁵But he said to them, 'The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. ²⁶But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. ²⁷For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.

28 'You are those who have stood by me in my trials; ²⁹and I confer on you, just as my Father has conferred on me, a kingdom, ³⁰so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

REFLECT & DISCUSS

1. Read the passage slowly. Then take a deep breath and read it again. What word, phrase or image stands out to you?
2. Jesus makes himself an example to his disciples. Disciples are those who serve and lead like Christ: with humility, elevating others, leveraging position and privilege for the well-being of others. What does that look like today?
3. How can you or how do you try to embody the servant leadership of Christ? What privileges or social position can you leverage for others?
4. Those who claim to follow Jesus have long fallen into disputes. Have you ever experienced a dispute or division in church life? What happened? If healing came about, what made that possible?
5. The future of Christianity and the future of the Church have gotten a lot of attention recently. In the US, and elsewhere in the Northern Hemisphere, church attendance and membership have dipped drastically since the onset of COVID. Churches close every day. How might this passage chart a way forward for faithful Christian community and ministry?
6. What kind of trials may we need to face in solidarity with Jesus?

South Elkhorn Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

4343 Harrodsburg Road, Lexington KY 40513

859-223-1433 southelkhorncc.org