

HOLY SCRIPTURE

Colossians 3: 12-17 (NRSV)

12 As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord* has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ* dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.* ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

1 Thessalonians 5: 12-24 (NRSV)

12 But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labour among you, and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; ¹³esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. ¹⁴And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the faint-hearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. ¹⁵See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. ¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil.

23 May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

COVENANT

Of the West Gloucester Trinitarian Congregational Church United Church of Christ

At the WGTC we believe in God's inclusive love for all which means that no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you are welcome here.

Recognizing that we are called together by God to follow in the ways of Christ, and recognizing the words of Holy Scripture (Colossians 3: 12-17 and 1 Thessalonians 5: 12-24) we covenant with one another to live together in loving relationships. With God's help, we will hold ourselves and one another to the following values and guidelines as we seek to live in community together.

- We seek to build each other up and not tear down.
- We respect and honor the office of pastor and other lay leaders.
- We seek to communicate clearly, listening to one another and honoring what the other is saying.
- We offer our opinions with charity and humility.
- We make positive investments in each other's lives by recognizing one another's spiritual gifts and seeking to nurture them.
- We seek to discover not what may be best for the individual or the small group but what is best for God's church as a whole.
- We accept disagreement, conflict and evolution as normal and natural and we will deal with them in a kind, open and loving way.
- We commit to being inconvenienced for the sake of the Gospel.
- We seek to respect people's lives, affirming that it is acceptable to come to church and just be.
- We seek and extend grace and forgiveness in relationship with each other.