

A Prayer as we Dwell in the Word

Loving God,
Though our destination is not yet clear,
May we trust in Your graceful promises;
Though we are uncertain of ourselves,
May we be rooted in Your loving regard;
Though our attention is inclined to wander,
May we hear the things You are saying;
Though we often neglect Your influence,
May we be convicted of Your power to change,
In Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

At the end:

Loving God,
We thank you that we are able to listen to you
through scripture and each other.
Help us to hold your word in our hearts.
We ask you to bless us
in all that we are, and say, and do.
In Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Dwelling in the Word can be a great way to
start a PCC or other church meeting, or to use as
an alternative in the sermon slot.



Dwelling in the Word 2021

Colossians 3: 12-17
NRSV

www.bathandwells.org.uk/dwelling

For more information contact Julia Hill

E: julia.hill@bathwells.anglican.org T: 01749 685114

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Dwelling in the Word is a way of listening communally to Scripture that is rooted in the church's tradition; it bears some resemblance to Lectio Divina, but is different in that we pay attention to other people's voices as we listen together. Dwelling is used within the Partnership for Missional Church process, which some churches across the Diocese are currently undertaking. How we Dwell is deceptively simple. It is focused on hearing God speak through the Scriptures and each other, by God's Spirit. Those who use this practice regularly have often found it profoundly helpful.

How we Dwell in the Word

- Listen carefully as the passage is read. Notice where your attention is drawn: to a word or a phrase where your mind lingers. It may be something you've never thought about before, something odd, something comforting, or something about which you'd like to find out more.
- We usually hear the passage read twice, by different voices. And then pair with someone else who has listened to the passage.
- Listen to that person without interrupting as they tell you what they heard in the passage. Listen well, because your job will be to report to the rest of the group what your partner has said, not what you yourself said. It's not a memory test so you are allowed to make a note!
- The person leading Dwelling will let you know how long you have. Make sure you both get a chance to be heard.

Colossians 3: 12-17

¹² As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³ Bear 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.

¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

¹⁶ Let 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.

¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.