



TOGETHER IN THIS

START HERE:

This Eastertide we each have the opportunity to take part in our "Together in This" campaign. For 8 weeks we are going to share the stories of our community. We're going to celebrate the profound life change experienced here at Forefront, and we're going to highlight the ways that new stories can and will be created.

WHY DO WE NEED TO KNOW IT?

Our church community has changed the lives of hundreds, maybe even thousands of people, because of the grace and generosity given through the committed people of our church. We want to continue to do this work for years to come, but we need resources to make it happen.

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

Give of your resources as a testament to God's grace in your life so others can experience that same grace within community. Give a generous one-time gift or set-up a recurring gift to help us reach our goal of \$250,000 by May 22.

BIBLE STUDY:

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Thoughts & Questions for Discussion:

How does thinking of other Christians as members of Christ himself affect the way you see them?

A MEDITATION ON THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

adapted from Br. David Liedl, T.O.R.

Lead your group through this meditation on the sign of the cross. If you grew up in a denomination like Catholicism, you may be familiar with the it: placing the fingers on the forehead, the center of the chest, the left shoulder, and then the right shoulder. Each section of this meditation will dwell on what each motion means: why we move our hands this way when we pray.

Instruct the group to sit in a comfortable position and spend a few moments concentrating on breathing. Then, bring first two fingers and thumb together, touching each successive location with three fingers. Read the below out loud as the group follows along with the movements.

"What has brought us to this present moment is the same thing – the cross. We call ourselves the Body because each of us has been marked by the same sign – the cross. We begin prayer with the cross. We end prayer with the cross. It marks the entrances to our churches, it hangs reverently on the walls of our homes. It is mystery. It is passion. It is life.

We are here to begin again, so we must enter again through the cross. We do this by marking our bodies with this sacred gesture recalling that it has been traced over us, impressed upon us.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

For more info or to RSVP to any of these events, go to

forefrontnyc.com/calendar

5/11 - Game Night at the Kenmore

5/13 - Together in This Gala

5/14 - Good Sense equip course

5/24 - Introverts Gathering

We bring the fingers of our right hand and allow them to rest gently on our forehead (*pause*). We begin our prayer by praying in the name of the Father. We hold them there and reverence the God who has created us, given us life; whose power is so great and whose beauty so overwhelming that we must shield our eyes, veil our faces in homage. The power of the Most High has overshadowed us. Every blessing begins with God. All that is good springs from the abundance of the Creator: the source of free will, all wisdom, all power, insight, revelation, and light.

We lower our right hand and allow it to rest gently on our chest.

We pray in the name of the Son. We hold our hand there in reverence of Jesus, the One who nurtures, sustains, and brings us life. God has a heart. We have seen it, heard it, touched it in Jesus Christ. Here at the center of our bodies, we feel our own heart beating. (*pause.*) Healing flows from here like blood; we find the comfort of a God who draws us to place ourselves, weary, and worn, here upon the Sacred Heart. All that is beautiful flows from the heart of Christ.

Now we bring our hand to rest gently upon our left shoulder. We pray in the name of all that is holy. We hold our hand there in reverence of our bodies. Our right arm presses against us in an embrace of the body we have been gifted with by God. (*pause.*) Here we find truth. The left side is weak. The flesh is weak. We are weak. Yet, in the mystery which is God we name it all as holy.

We draw our hand across our chest and allow our fingers to rest gently upon our right shoulder. We pray in the name of the Spirit. (*pause.*) We hold our hand there in reverence of the wonder of the Spirit. We hold our hand there in reverence of the wonder of the Spirit. The Spirit that which moves just beyond our reach and eludes us like the wind. Here, in the realm of symbol, intuition, imagination, and dreams, we share in the life of the divine. The Spirit makes us one.

We bring our hands together now at the center, folding them together in an act of grateful prayer. All has been gathered together from the North and South, from the West and from the East. God is manifest in goodness and beauty, in truth, and in unity. The cross has sanctified all the elements of the created universe: water, fire, earth, and air. The cross has marked us, all that we are: mind and heart; body and spirit. The cross blesses us for we have prayed in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

And to all of this we say: **AMEN."**