



ST. JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A ministry of the Presbyterian Church USA
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SERMON STUDY & DISCUSSION OUTLINE

Church Series:

#1 – Why are we a church?

#2 – Are we becoming the church God calls us to be?

#3 – From the past to the future

#4 – What will becoming God's church do to us?

9.26.2021 – ARE WE BECOMING THE CHURCH GOD CALLS US TO BE?

FROM THE 80s TO 2021: Reflecting about the past to guide our future

1. In the 80s, St. James PC transitioned from the mostly white church to Filipinos. Why and how did that happen? Was the transition process seriously talked and prayed for? Were good decisions made in mutually edifying ways?
2. Then, you had two Filipino pastors. Did St. James grow during those two times? If yes, what made the church to grow?
3. The second Filipino pastor departed and Covid forced St. James to shut down for almost 2 years. How did the church function? Was there congregational care by the church leadership?
4. In February 2021, your church leaders thought of reopening the church. What may be the top 3 reasons why you considered reopening?

DISTINCTIVES OF GOD'S CHURCH

THIS IS WHO WE ARE...

- WE KNOW WE ARE PEOPLE CHOSEN BY GOD (1 Peter 2:9-10) → TO DECLARE & PRAISE GOD!
- WE ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST (1 Corinthians 12:27-30, 13:13) → GIFTS + CHRIST'S LOVE
- WE ARE UNITED WITH CHRIST, WITH EACH OTHER (Philippians 2:1-4, 14-18) → SHINING STARS

THIS IS WHAT WE DO (Acts 2:42-47)...

- DEVOTED TO THE WORD
- DEVOTED TO FELLOWSHIP
- DEVOTED TO THE BREAKING OF BREAD
- DEVOTED TO PRAYER
- AWED BY SIGNS AND WONDERS
- REAL HELPING EACH OTHER
- WITH GLAD, SINCERE HEARTS, PRAISING GOD, FAVOR OF ALL PEOPLE → FRUITFUL OUTREACH

HOW ARE WE DOING TODAY, SO FAR?

- WHAT DO WE HAVE GOING TODAY?
- IF WE ARE GOING TO DO THINGS, WHO WILL DO IT?
- HOW DO MAKE SURE WHAT WE DO ARE FOR GOOD REASONS?
- WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS WE FIRST NEED TO DO AND BE GOOD AT?