REVD. DR. D. J. AJITH KUMAR

True Followers of Christ seek to live in His presence

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READINGS
Psalm 17; Exodus 33:12-17; Philippians 1:19-26

As we gather on this ecumenical Sunday, let us reflect on the beauty of ecumenism – the unity of Christians despite our diverse traditions. In the body of Christ, we find a common ground that transcends denominational differences. Our commitment to living in Christ's presence is a unifying force that surpasses theological nuances. Let us celebrate our shared faith, understanding that, despite our differences, we are one in Christ.

Ecumenism is not the abandonment of our distinctiveness but a recognition that, in Christ, we find a deeper unity that binds us together. It is a call to embrace the richness of our various traditions, learning from one another, and collectively growing in our journey of faith.

Living always in the presence of Christ is not a passive state but an active, intentional choice. It requires cultivating a vibrant prayer life, meditating on His Word, and embodying the teachings of Jesus in our daily interactions. The theological foundation lies in acknowledging that God is with us, not just in moments of crisis but in every step of our journey.Our theological reflection should lead us to understand that true followers of Christ recognize the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, guiding and empowering us to live according to God's will. It is through this awareness that we draw strength and courage to face life's challenges.

In conclusion, dear brothers and sisters, let us recommit ourselves to the profound truth that true followers of Christ seek to live always in His presence. As we navigate the year ahead, may we be intentional in our pursuit of God, recognizing His presence in our joys and sorrows, in our triumphs and challenges.Ecumenism is a concept that emphasizes the unity and cooperation among different Christian denominations and traditions. In the context of the previous sermon, exploring ecumenism further could involve discussing the importance of fostering understanding and collaboration among diverse Christian communities.

The sermon might delve into the historical development of ecumenism, highlighting key events and milestones in the efforts to promote unity within the Christian faith. Emphasizing commonalities in beliefs and practices among different denominations can help build bridges and promote a sense of shared purpose.Additionally, the sermon could address the challenges and obstacles to ecumenism, acknowledging that theological differences and historical divisions can be significant barriers. However, the message may encourage a spirit of humility, openness, and dialogue as essential components in the journey towards greater unity.

The practical aspects of ecumenism might also be explored, such as interfaith dialogues, joint worship services, and collaborative community initiatives. Emphasizing the shared mission of spreading love, compassion, and justice can serve as a powerful motivator for Christians to come together despite their denominational differences.Ultimately, this sermon may call for a renewed commitment to ecumenical efforts within the congregation, encouraging individuals to actively

engage in building bridges with other Christian communities and fostering a spirit of mutual respect and understanding.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the privilege of being called your children. As we leave this place, may your presence go with us. Grant us the wisdom to seek you in every aspect of our lives, and may our unity as believers be a testimony to your love. Strengthen us to be true followers of Christ, living always in His presence. In moments of doubt, remind us of your faithfulness. In moments of joy, help us share that joy with others. May your peace reign in our hearts, and may we, as one body, bring glory to your name. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

May you go forth in the assurance that God's presence accompanies you every step of the way.

Amen.