- Holy living is rooted in . ٠
- A living stone is one who remains firm in Christ, but who is open ٠ to the movement of the Holy Spirit.
- A spiritual house is formed upon Christ's •

## HOLY LIVING POINTS BACK TO WHERE WE BELONG

# Dear Christ Church...

...But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people,

but now you are God's people;

once you had not received mercy,

but now you have received mercy.

1 Peter 2:9–10 (NRSV)

- We are in a world that often tells us otherwise.
- As members of Christ's royal priesthood, we have the hope to live our lives as an outpouring of his grace-filled love.



#### THE LIVING HOPE WE HAVE IN CHRIST JESUS OUTCOMES

- What does this hope look like?
- How do we live this hope out? ٠

# Dear Christ Church...

Therefore, prepare your minds for action; discipline yourselves; set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed. Like obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires that you formerly had in ignorance. Instead, as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; for it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

1 Peter 1:13–16 (NRSV)

- Discipline is not punitive, but \_\_\_\_\_\_. ٠
- Holy living is the consequence of a faith. ٠
- Holiness has been defined for us because it is inherent to God.

#### HOLY LIVING FOCUSES ON WHAT'S

#### Dear Christ Church...

...If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God. For

"All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord endures forever."

That word is the good news that was announced to you.

1 Peter 1:17–25 (NRSV)

Two challenges we face:

- Reclaiming our relationship with God as \_\_\_\_\_, not
- Entrusting in the promise that death is not the end.

### Dear Christ Church...

...Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

1 Peter 2:1-3 (NRSV)

- Holy living implies a \_\_\_\_\_\_.
- Our nourishment derives from God's goodness and not our innate desire for control or fulfillment.

### IN CHRIST, WE HAVE OUR PREMIER IDENTITY

# Dear Christ Church...

...Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like **living stones**, let yourselves be built into **a spiritual house**, to be **a holy priesthood**, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

"The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall."

*They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.*