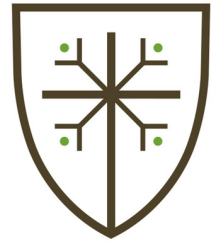


SUMMER PSALMS

An Ordinary Time Sermon Series 2026

SERMON NOTES



July 12, 2026

SERMON INFO

TITLE

"The Community of the Church"

PREACHER

Rev. Craig Chapman

TEXTS

Psalm 133

Acts 2:38, 41-41, 46-47

John 13:34-35, John 17:20-23

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Where do you gather to seek satisfaction?
2. What's emblematic of your life? Work and the next promotion? A relationship? Money? Community?
3. If you are in Christ, do you appreciate the blessing of community you find yourself in? What are some ways you can engage more deeply?

SERMON IN SUMMARY

Craig began a new sermon series on the Psalms. His selection, Psalm 133 by King David, guides us through an exploration of church gathering and unity, both then and now.

Understanding

The broad call of today's psalm is to pay attention to the blessing. In David's time, the blessing from God harkened back to the Abrahamic covenantal blessing. Today, we understand the blessing as Jesus' fulfillment of that covenant and redemptive act on the cross. In the psalm, David uses language such as "brethren," "abiding," and "unity" to describe the community benefiting from this blessing. Through connotation and the Hebrew roots, we come to understand that the people described behold the Lord in their midst, are a family not of blood or social connections but with a shared foundation in God, and not only survive and live in the land in which they find themselves but put down roots to abide and abound. Today, we would add that these qualities culminate through an outward flourishing of trinitarian love. David further illustrates through metaphors, namely through Aaron's vestments, oil, and dew. At the mention of Aaron's robes, Craig explained that they were ornate vestments adorned with many precious stones, especially on the shoulders and chest, and the beautiful variety of stones bore the engravings of each of the twelve tribes of Israel. The oil, a symbol of the Holy Spirit, runs down the breastplate, blessing the people. Not only Aaron, the first Jewish High Priest, wore these robes, but so did all priests following him, through AD 70. Jesus, our great high priest, fulfills this role. He holds the diverse variety of people precious in his sight, unified by the Holy Spirit. If that were not enough of an image, the mention of dew from Mount Hermon was known to irrigate not only Israel but the surrounding lands as well. The people of God are blessed by the Lord and are blessings to those around them, even their enemies.

Reality

Metaphors and context aside, Acts describes the first New Testament church and their deep-rootedness in the Holy Spirit. They were devoted to the study of the Old and New Testament, worship through breaking the bread and praying, and fellowship, especially in small groups. They also had habits of service and grace. All of this emphasizes community, because, as the body of Christ, we are called to live life together. The blessing of God must overflow into the lives of others. Solitary Christianity is not an option, not only for our good and God's glory, but so that the world may know the goodness of God.

Application

We must live with an attitude of charity because we are all on the same journey of sanctification. We often receive the most grace and encounter with the Holy Spirit when we embrace those different from us, and we do this best by steadfastly and intentionally showing up to church. We must also have an attitude of faith, trusting that God is using you to be a blessing another needs, and vice versa. Our others-minded attitudes can overflow into action; service, especially, deepens relationships.

We bear the image of the Trinity, the ultimate community, and therefore should not take fellowship lightly. However, the stronger one's vertical fellowship, the stronger one's horizontal fellowship will be.