

**Welcome to Faith & First United Methodist Church**  
**Sermon Notes - October 4, 2020**  
**Ephesians Series: “The Mystery”**

Scripture: Ephesians 3

Ephesians 3:2-21 assuming, by the way, that you know God gave me the special responsibility of extending his grace to you Gentiles. As I briefly wrote earlier, God himself revealed his mysterious plan to me. As you read what I have written, you will understand my insight into this plan regarding Christ. God did not reveal it to previous generations, but now by his Spirit he has revealed it to his holy apostles and prophets. And this is God’s plan: Both Gentiles and Jews who believe the Good News share equally in the riches inherited by God’s children. Both are part of the same body, and both enjoy the promise of blessings because they belong to Christ Jesus. By God’s grace and mighty power, I have been given the privilege of serving him by spreading this Good News. Though I am the least deserving of all God’s people, he graciously gave me the privilege of telling the Gentiles about the endless treasures available to them in Christ. I was chosen to explain to everyone this mysterious plan that God, the Creator of all things, had kept secret from the beginning. God’s purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was his eternal plan, which he carried out through Christ Jesus our Lord. Because of Christ and our faith in him, we can now come boldly and confidently into God’s presence. When I think of all this, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father, the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth. I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God’s love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God. Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen.

**Life Application Questions:**

1. Paul had tried to explain the mysterious plan as revealed to him. How well do you understand this plan and can explain it to another?
2. The Ephesians prayer is for each of us. As you read through it, how can you receive from it in your own life?

**Prayer:** Dear Lord, thank you for the Holy Spirit. The Spirit has allowed us to receive and understand the mystery that you have hidden since time began. Thank you for including each and every one of us in this plan. Oh how we look forward to being in heaven with you for all of eternity. Help us to see how this transforms our lives to help others receive this same promise. We receive of the promises as Paul prays over the church. Thank you for your perfect plan and our part in it. We pray all this in the mighty name of Jesus, Amen.

1. How are you able to help others with their burdens?
2. In what areas of your life are you reaping a harvest from seeds you have sown or wish you have not sown?
3. Can you describe how you have been transformed into a new creation? How do you show it?

**Prayer:** Dear Lord, thank you for the Holy Spirit. The Spirit that has transformed us into a new creation. Help us to see how our continual sowing of the seed would grow into the harvest that would be pleasing unto you. Show us how we can help carry the crushing burden of another. We can only live these scriptures out through the power of the Holy Spirit that resides inside us. We pray all this in the mighty name of Jesus, Amen.