



**Wear It: Gratitude**  
**November 22, 2020**  
*Colossians 3:12-16 (NRSV)*

### Connect:

- This is the season of thanks giving! These days are preoccupied with figuring out how to do what we have become accustomed to doing and do so in compliance with safety measures. It magnifies our love of the old ways and the manner of new things. In all of this what are you grateful for? It might be something you miss or it could be something you still or newly can do.

### Engage

- Read *Colossians 3:12-16*. Paul ends this passage with “...and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.” Why does Paul “admonish” us to recognize gratitude in our hearts and in response, sing sacred songs to God? What is it about singing? About the sacred content of the lyric? About the audience of God? Do you think God reaches for us in music or is there something more that happens? Would grateful singing develop the habit of giving God the glory?
- Lots of concert goers, church worshippers, and fraternal organizations have moments when everyone is singing the same song. We idolize the artists and the cause. How does that feel in the group or as you observe them? Does music have the power to draw us in to each other and to God? Can you think of a moment when you felt this? Can you describe the unity or camaraderie you felt/observed in that imprinting moment? Have you also seen it and been less than impressed? Why?
- Jesus’s prayer for us is that we be one. When we can agree on what we hope for or are grateful for and we join our voices together, does that make us feel grateful for the subject or for the unity? Does it matter?
- If you were going to write a song of gratitude for these times, what would your title be? Would you center in the wisdom of the word of Christ that *dwells in you richly*? It may even be a prescient word that you don’t yet know you need, like *lean*. Or it may be a song sung over and for you.

### Next Steps:

- In our present contentious climate, forget for a minute about all the “issues.” If you just found a comfortable place to rest and be still, what music might you start humming or playing? Now go and find someone else to listen to. Can you hear the song of their heart? Can you respond with affirmation and gratitude? Let them know.

### Pray:

- “As we move from this sacred time, let us put on the armor of God: the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the sandals that bring the gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, the sword of the spirit. Wearing the strength of God, we go in peace. Amen.”