

“A Cup of Cold Water”

This Sunday, our Gospel reading (Matthew 10:40–42) brings us to one of Jesus’ smallest commands—and one of his most powerful promises. After sending the disciples into the world with nothing but trust, Jesus ends his teaching with a whisper of grace: *“Whoever gives even a cup of cold water... will not lose their reward.”*

A cup of cold water.

Not a grand gesture.

Not a heroic sacrifice.

Just a simple act of kindness offered to one of the “little ones”—the overlooked, the weary, the vulnerable, the newcomer, the neighbor who needs to know they matter.

In worship this week, we’ll explore how Jesus invests his presence in the ordinary acts of hospitality we offer and receive. As I have seen and witnessed through my years as a pastor, Christ chooses to be known through the lives of ordinary disciples. Also, most of us will never be asked to do something dramatic for God—but all of us are asked to be faithful in small, daily ways.

- Here at Edisto Island UMC, we already practice many “cup of cold water” ministries
- quiet visits and phone calls
- meals delivered without fanfare
- prayers whispered for those who never hear them
- welcome offered to neighbors and strangers
- generosity shared with those who need a hand
- volunteering at and donating to Nancies Clothes Closet

These small acts are not small to Jesus. They are the very shape of discipleship.

I hope you’ll join us this Sunday as we listen again for Christ’s invitation to notice, to welcome, and to serve. Come and be refreshed. Come and be part of the quiet, steady work God is doing through this church. Come and help us offer “cups of cold water” to our island community—one person, one moment, one kindness at a time.

Worship begins at 10:00 a.m.

There is a place for you here.

Rev. Len Ripley