**GO!**
Hebrews 13:1-16
*“So let’s go outside, where Jesus is…”*Hebrews 13:13a (The Message)

We are a people on the go! We are constantly on the move. We go to work, school, or church. We go to the supermarket, the movies, or the dry cleaners. We go on vacations, to hospitals, or doctor’s offices. We go to volunteer at the food pantry, the animal shelter, or the library. Much of our going is necessary and good. Some of our going is simply mindless motion. The challenge from Hebrews is one to encourage us all to make our actions, our motions, and our goings count. *Let’s go outside, where Jesus is, where the action is.*

****This one sentence is packed in the middle of a passage focused on temple worship and animal sacrifices. In short, the letter-writer of Hebrews (whom many believe to be the Apostle Paul, even though he does not identify himself as such) is telling the people that while worship is good and important, we are called to take our worship beyond the temple, beyond the sanctuary, and out into the world. Paul tells us to “GO” where Jesus went – into the world!

This one sentence is also nestled in the middle of a chapter focused on three things -

* Worship
* Community
* Ministry

First of all, we are called to a vibrant, authentic **WORSHIP** where praise flows from our lips. The writer is encouraging his listeners, then and now, to become fully engaged in a life-changing worship experience. He didn’t describe worship styles or music genre. He didn’t say it had to be traditional, or contemporary, or blended. He simply said that words of praise to God should flow from our lips – to whatever tune, beat, or genre that speaks to our hearts. And this worship is not just a “Jesus and me” experience. The engaging and authentic worship that he is speaking about will bring us into relationship with other believers. It is only in **COMMUNITY**, where our hearts can truly sing in full harmony with praise to God, our Creator and Redeemer. The one thing that will pull this community together is our common love for Jesus Christ and his sacrificial love for us. Lastly, the result of such a harmonious worshiping community is inevitably **MINISTRY**. We take to the streets, the prisons, go to the strangers in the neighborhood, the refugees, the schools, our marriages and relationships, our families, our kitchens and living rooms, and yes, even our churches – sharing the love of Jesus with all we meet. Some of these places may be familiar to us, while others may be new and strange. Regardless, we are called to GO!

In the coming year, Women’s Ministry will be on the go. As we worship and pray together may we truly embrace the richness of God’s presence, in and around us. As we meet together may we remain open to all women and seek ways to bring all women into our community of sisters. Let us seek out the immigrant woman, let us forge a bond with a survivor of human trafficking or domestic violence, let us make room for the young women in our midst. And lastly, as our community of women grows and flourishes, may we continue to get outside our churches and into the world that Jesus calls us to embrace with abundant love and compassion.

***Let Us GO!!!***

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The concepts of Worship, Community and Ministry were gleaned from the “Theological Perspectives” of Gray Temple in Feasting on the Word, Preaching the Revised Common Lectionary, Year C, Volume 4, Westminster John Knox Press, 2010