In times of transition our spiritual compasses must reset back to the one who created time, defined space, and crafted life!

What is the job of an Interim Lead Pastor?

To ______________ us … with what Jesus is already doing among us!

To help ______________ us … in what we know can be done better!

To ______________ us … with the things God can YET do in and through us!

Ezra 3 describes a moment in Israel’s history when the Jewish people were starting over…kind of like us here at Trinity

Two of their initial emotions for many at this moment were ___________ and ___________.

v. 3 They set the altar in its place, for fear was on them because of the peoples of the lands, and they offered burnt offerings on it to the Lord, burnt offerings morning and evening.

v. 12 But many of the priests and Levites and heads of fathers’ houses, old men who had seen the first house, wept with a loud voice when they saw the foundation of this house being laid…”

But the people refused to remain fearful and sad!

Instead, at this moment of transition, they chose to do three things! What were they? And what can we learn from them?

FIRST: They Got ______________ (In Unity) 3:1


Notice why believers are to gather together!

We have a ____________________________ way to approach God

We have a ____________________________ who presents his purity to God on our behalf

These new realities invite us to three actions:
   To draw near to God
   To hold fast our confession of faith
   To meet together without neglecting it
SECOND: They Got back to ________________ (The Altar) 3:2-4

Derek Kidner (Commentary on Ezra)
“The threatening situation had brought home to them their need of help, and therefore of that access to God which was promised at the altar. ‘There (at the altar) he said, I will meet with the people of Israel’. “ (Ex 29:43)

THIRD: They Got ________________ (Powerful and varying in Perspective) 3:5-13

Notice what they did:

vv. 4-6 They followed ___________________________ regarding the temple activities
v. 7 They ___________________________ from the same place Solomon had obtained his - Sidon and Tyre (2 Chronicles 2)
v. 8 They ___________________________ the same month as Solomon’s temple was begun (1 Kings 6)
vv. 3:9-11 They followed ___________________________ King David had given to his son Solomon

Haggai 2:3-5 and Zechariah 4:6

Jesus Christ - our great Cornerstone!