

Willow Springs Worship March 29, 2020

Title: Show Us, God, your power over death itself

Focus statement

We hold in tension the truth that Jesus is the resurrection, and the reality that death does have some sting. Jesus, we need you to show us you have power over death itself.

Welcome to this worship time. We think of our encounters with Our Living Lord.

Our Call to Worship,

Leader: In ancient times, Yahweh asked the prophet,
“Do you believe these dead bones can live again?”

People: The prophet answered, “O God, you know!”

Leader: In the time of Jesus, he asked Martha,
“Do you believe I am the resurrection and the life?”

People: Martha answered, “Yes, Lord, I believe.”

Leader: Today God asks, “Do you trust that mourning can turn into joy?
That your weary bones will live again?”

People: We answer, “O God, show us!”

Affirmation of faith

ALL:

Into the silence of the void our Creator spoke, bringing life.
The Cosmic Christ and the Holy Spirit hovered over the waters—
matter from nothing,
flesh from dust,
life from lifelessness.

We believe Jesus can bring life out of nothing,
but three days is a long time to wait.

Jesus, in our waiting for new life, give us hope.
Show us your resurrection power that we may fully believe.

Singing -

Let’s reflect together with the song, “I owe the Lord a morning song.”

Children’s time -

Imagine a branch with a bud and one with a dried leaf.
In the autumn leaves fall off the trees. In winter trees look dead. What was purpose? In the spring we see buds. It’s a promise of new life.

Jesus lived here with us as a person. He walked, he talked, he laughed, and he cried. He had a purpose too. It looked like he died too, but was that the end of the story?

No, God loved Jesus and brought him back to life, just like Jesus brought his friend back to life, which we’ll hear more about later in the service.

Take a look at the trees as the weeks move along. Life come forth!

Prayer: God, you are amazing. Your love is right here with us all the time; thank you for saving me. Help me to trust you, when I get a new purpose. Amen.

Scripture: John 11:17-46

Sermon: Encounter: To Live and Believe

Sharing - Pastoral prayer/offering prayer

The Lord walks with us these days in all the unanswered questions in our lives and around the world.

Prayer for many impacted by the coronavirus:

+Heath care workers, and other leaders in care centers.

+Neighbors near and far.

+The unemployed.

+Small business owners.

+Those with the virus.

+Those with other illnesses.

+People around the world grieving the loss of a loved one.

+The poor and homeless.

+All in developing countries.

+Societal and cultural institutions.

+National leaders all over the world.

We offer our lives to the Lord for encounters of life in the midst of the pressure and stress of the CV19 challenges.

Give us wisdom as we know we belong to you and each other!

Offerings can be mailed to Willow Springs at PO BOX 386, Tiskilwa, 61368

Benediction

“Come out!” Jesus cries, calling us from our tombs into a world full of grace and possibility.

“Go out!” Jesus commands, calling us into the world to live as God’s resurrected people.

Go in the peace of Jesus. Live in Peace.