

Willow Springs Worship January 10, 2021

Call to Worship

L: Lost . . .

P: wandering without purpose, meaning, value, acceptance, or place.

L: We wander lost. But the Spirit of God descends like a dove upon us. We hear the ancient words that name and claim us as children of God.

P: We are cleansed, refreshed, and made new in the love of those words.

All: We are found!

Opening Prayer

Song

Prayer of Confession: Lord, you have blessed us with life. We praise you for this blessing. What we have done with our lives has both delighted and perplexed you.

We are far too often inclined to be stubborn and arrogant, believing that we are all powerful, that we have no need for you. But there is an emptiness in us - a place where we are raw and hurting, bleeding, and bruised. We have tried our own healing methods, and they have not worked. We feel as though we are an oar-less, sail-less boat drifting in water, unable to gain direction, unable to see the shore. We long for home and hope. From across these waters, you have called us. Now let us come to you in our lackings, seeking your healing and forgiving love.

Words of Assurance: Dear people of God, let the Spirit of Jesus be a reminder of the strength which God has placed in you. Let the Holy Spirit motivate your hopes and your desire to be again connected to God. We thank the Lord for God's gracious and absolute love for us, in Jesus' Name, Amen.

Song

Children's time

Scripture: Isaiah 61:1-3, Mark 1:1-11, Acts 19:1-7

Sermon: The Holy Spirit - God's gift wrap

Song

Sharing/Pastoral prayer

Offering our lives/song

Announcements

Benediction - God has laid claim to your life.

In God filling your life, you have been marked
as God's own forever.

In grace may God watch over you.

In strength may you go forth in service.

In hope may the Spirit guide us all.

Continue in peace, Amen.

* * *

Isaiah 61:1-3 **The Year of the Lord's Favor**

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,
because the Lord has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release from darkness for the prisoners,

2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor
and the day of vengeance of our God,

to comfort all who mourn,

3 and provide for those who grieve in Zion—
to bestow on them a crown of beauty

instead of ashes,
the oil of joy

instead of mourning,

and a garment of praise

instead of a spirit of despair.

They will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the Lord

for the display of his splendor.

Mark 1:1-11 **John the Baptist Prepares the Way**

1 The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, 2 as it is written
in Isaiah the prophet:

"I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way"—

3 "a voice of one calling in the wilderness,

'Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.'"

4 And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for
the forgiveness of sins. 5 The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went
out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. 6 John wore
clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild
honey. 7 And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps
of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. 8 I baptize you with water, but he
will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

The Baptism and Testing of Jesus

9 At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. 11 And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

Acts 19:1-7 Paul in Ephesus

While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when[a] you believed?"

They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."

So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?"

"John's baptism," they replied.

Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve men in all.