

Willow Springs Worship February 14, 2021

Call to Worship #VT851

Song

Living God's Story Prayer VT#1040

Song

Children's time

Scripture: 1 Peter 1:22-2:12

Sermon: God's work to build us together

Song

Sharing/Pastoral prayer

Offering our lives/song

Announcements - Consider a Hesston College online [HC Saturday](#) A leadership day on Feb. 20/Saturday. Register by the 18th.

9 to 10:30 a.m. – Join Guest Speaker David Fitch to discuss “What does it mean to be the Church?”
David Fitch is Betty R. Lindner Chair of Evangelical Theology at Northern Seminary, Chicago, Ill., author at Missio Alliance and founding pastor of Life on the Vine Christian Community in the northwest suburbs of Chicago.

11 a.m. to noon – John the Baptist goes to AA

Join Michele Hershberger for an interactive hour of spiritual guidance and self-care. Explore the principles of the 12 Steps as they apply to John the Baptist and all of us. How can something so discombobulating as COVID be an opportunity for new life? How can we grieve well, let go and look forward?

1 to 2:30 p.m. – “Moving from Challenges to Discovering Opportunities”

Join Jessica Schrock-Ringenberg for a leadership team coaching event in which pastors and congregation leadership teams will be guided through questions to help them discover the unique opportunities COVID offers for true congregational change and where they believe their church can make progress despite post-COVID challenges.

Sending VT#822

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1 Peter 1:22-2:12 New International Version

22 Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. 23 For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. 24 For,

“All people are like grass,
and all their glory is like the flowers of the field;
the grass withers and the flowers fall,

25 but the word of the Lord endures forever.”

And this is the word that was preached to you.

2 Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. 2 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, 3 now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

The Living Stone and a Chosen People

4 As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— 5 you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house[c] to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For in Scripture it says:

“See, I lay a stone in Zion,
a chosen and precious cornerstone,
and the one who trusts in him
will never be put to shame.”

7 Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,

“The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,”

8 and,

“A stone that causes people to stumble
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

11 Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. 12 Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.