

## Willow Springs Worship February 21, 2021 LENT #1

**FOCUS:** The voice of God pierces the deep, calling us to deep relationship. With the floodwaters behind us and the waters of baptism holding us, our relationship with God establishes our identity with other people and the world we live in.

### Thematic Slide Show

#### Welcome

#### Call to Worship

One: God, we are here at the water's edge, casting off from shore

**Many: into unknown waters.**

One: With fear and trembling, we drop our oars,

**Many: letting them go, trusting the sea.**

One: God, we trust the signs of your covenant:  
the ark through the water,  
the waters of baptism,

**Many: the bow in the clouds and the dove from the heavens.**

**All: *We call to you as you called us deeper into steadfast love.***

#### Song

#### Prayer of Confession and Assurance

**Many: Deep calls to deep.**

**We call to you from the depths of our hearts.**

One: We confess when we have stayed too close to the surface,  
avoiding you,  
avoiding our neighbors.

We confess when we have felt in over our heads.  
Needing you,  
needing our neighbors.

*(Silence. Or name the forces that keep us from deep relationship.)*

Deep calls to deep.

You call to us from the depth of your love.

**Many: Calling us to deep relationship.**

**We come to you, God.**

#### Song

#### Children's time

**Scripture:** Gen. 8:20-9:17, Mark 1:9-11, 2 Cor. 5:7 "We walk by faith, not by sight."

## Sermon: Noah, Deep End? Or, A Deeper Walk?

Questions for reflection and response:

- How is God calling you to deep relationship?
- God calls you “Beloved”; what name do you give to God?

## Song

## Sharing/Pastoral prayer

## Offering our lives/song

**Announcements** - Please view the video and come with comments or questions to a discussion time following worship on **Sunday, February 28**.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dFinFW3\\_shs&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dFinFW3_shs&feature=youtu.be)

0:00 MCC's introductory comments

6:00 Part 1 Understanding Doctrine of Discovery  
Old Testament land covenants and what happened when Jesus came  
History of Christendom

42:41 Q & A

## SENDING BLESSING

The divine calls for us to move beyond the shallows of our lives into deep relationship. God requires our trust and vulnerability as we reach out to a neighbor, bursting the surface bubbles of our lives and striving for deeper understanding. Go into the week before you, reaching out for a story far beyond your own, in love. Amen.

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## Genesis 8:20-9:17

<sup>20</sup> Then Noah built an altar to the Lord and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it. <sup>21</sup> The Lord smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: “Never again will I curse the ground because of humans, even though<sup>[a]</sup> every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done.

<sup>22</sup> “As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.”

## God’s Covenant with Noah

**9** Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth. <sup>2</sup> The fear and dread of you will fall on all the beasts of the earth, and on all the birds in the sky, on every creature that moves along the ground, and on all the fish in the sea; they are given into your hands. <sup>3</sup> Everything that lives and moves about will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything.

<sup>4</sup>“But you must not eat meat that has its lifeblood still in it. <sup>5</sup>And for your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting. I will demand an accounting from every animal. And from each human being, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of another human being.

<sup>6</sup>“Whoever sheds human blood,  
by humans shall their blood be shed;  
for in the image of God  
has God made mankind.

<sup>7</sup>As for you, be fruitful and increase in number; multiply on the earth and increase upon it.”

<sup>8</sup>Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: <sup>9</sup>“I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you <sup>10</sup>and with every living creature that was with you—the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you—every living creature on earth. <sup>11</sup>I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth.”

<sup>12</sup>And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: <sup>13</sup>I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup>Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, <sup>15</sup>I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. <sup>16</sup>Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth.”

<sup>17</sup>So God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth.”

## Mark 1:9-11

### The Baptism and Testing of Jesus

<sup>9</sup>At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

### 2 Corinthians 5:7

“We walk by faith, not by sight.”

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### GOING DEEPER 2021

As you continue through Lenten worship this year, consider what other practices might help you go deeper with God and with one another.

Consider ways of “going deeper.”

**Into Our Stories:** Either throughout the week, share prayer requests with one other person and to pray for each other.

**Into Scripture:** Encourage at-home engagement with the Scripture texts throughout the week, such as reading, practicing *lectio divina* or guided meditations, writing/creating artistic responses, and sharing those creations on Sundays.

**Into Silence:** As we dwell on what we find to be most essential, deep at our core, bravely embrace silence in life, not filling every transition, not narrating every moment.

**Into the Past:** When this season of Lent comes around, pay attention to the anniversaries that your congregation is remembering, and consider how they need to be tended. How is your worship different this year from last year at this time? What events of 2020 are you remembering? What losses is your community grieving? What new discoveries fill you with gratitude? What has God revealed in these times? Make space to reflect on these things.

**Into Voices Together:** Page through the new hymnal reading the text of songs that catch for eye, sing familiar songs and hum the tunes to new ones. Use a bookmark to keep track of how far you have explored