

Willow Springs Worship March 14, 2021 LENT #4

FOCUS - The wilderness confronts us with our vulnerability and exposes our wounds and our needs. We are called to deep healing by trusting in God, who calls us in love.

Thematic Slide Show

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: The wilderness is without and within. It too is part of God's path, though we fear wild, barren places, as did the people of old.

**Many: When the people became impatient, asking,
"Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness?"
God answered by bringing healing.**

One: In our barren places, God calls us to wholeness, even when we cannot see beyond the danger, isolation, and need.

Many: We forget that God is already at work in these difficult, painful places.

One: Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Chosen One be lifted up, that whoever believes may have eternal life.

**Many: For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works,
which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.**

All: We call out to you, as you call us to deeper healing.

Song

Prayer of Confession and Assurance

Many: Deep calls to deep.

We call to you from the depths of our hearts

One: We confess how the wilderness has revealed our need,
uncovering our impatience,
lifting up our pain.

We confess how the wilderness has revealed your truth.

We are created for good works.

We can turn and live.

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

Deep calls to deep.

You call to us from the depth of your love.

Many: Calling us to deep healing.

We come to you, God.

Song

Children's time

Scripture: Numbers 21:4-9; John 3:14-21

Sermon: Should I Ring the Bell?

Song

Sharing/Pastoral prayer

Offering our lives/song

Announcements

AntiRacism Discussion – Plan to read two brief article for discussion next Sunday, March 21 following worship. Find them in your email early in the week.

MCC Fundraiser - “Dare to Serve” Zoom event on Friday, March 19 at 7:00 pm. Dares, goods or services, and cooperative auction items should be submitted to Ellen Davis-Zehr (asledz5@gmail.com)

Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale Online Auction - To participate go to the Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale web page ilreliefsale.org or to the Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale Facebook page and click on the Sullivanauctioneers.proxibid.com link to the auction.

April 1 – Maundy Thursday worship service.

April 4 – Easter Worship

SENDING BLESSING

Through the barren lands of our lives, God is calling us to wholeness. Although we may not see this time as possibility, God is already at work. As we rest in the long nights of winter, a cosmic spark restores us. Look to Christ in faith, noticing the many ways his words and eyes and hands and feet brought healing. Go with the healing light of Christ. Amen.

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Numbers 21:4-9 The Bronze Snake

⁴They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea,^(a) to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; ⁵they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!”

⁶Then the Lord sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, “We sinned when we spoke against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take the snakes away from us.” So Moses prayed for the people.

⁸The Lord said to Moses, “Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.” ⁹So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

John 3:14-21

¹⁴Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,^(a) ¹⁵that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”^(b)

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. ¹⁹This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. ²¹But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

