

9.13.26

Prelude
Choral Introit

Welcome
Call to Worship

In the beginning, the Spirit of God hovered over the waters. And God called them good.

All: Come Holy Spirit and cleanse the waters.

One: The prophet saw a river flowing from the Temple,
and wherever the river flowed, everything lived.

All: Come Holy Spirit and renew the face of the Earth.

Leader: Jesus cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me... Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water."

All: Come, Holy Spirit and heal your people.

Opening Hymn How Great Thou Art #625 vs. 1-3

Call to Reconciliation:

One: As we begin this Season of Creation, let us bring our hearts to God in reflection.

All: Holy God, whose Spirit hovered over the waters at the beginning, we gather as part of your community of all creation, thirsty for your grace. We give thanks for the gift of water, the veins of our common home, that sustains the cedar and the whale, the pasture and the city. We are grateful for the local waters that nourish our homelands and our fellow creatures. We give thanks that in your well-watered garden, every drop is a sacred testament to your love.

Yet, we confess that we have treated this gift as a mere commodity. We have choked the seas with our waste and watched the warming tides rise in judgment. We lament the cracked earth of the drought-stricken and the salty tears of the climate refugee. Melt our frozen hearts, O God, and let the waters of repentance flow.

Lord of all Life, you promised that wherever the river flows, everything shall live.

Stir in us a calling to care for the waters — to protect the watershed, defend the rights of water, and honor the dignity of the thirsty. May your Word be a spring within us, gushing forth for the healing of the nations.

(Moment of silent reflection)

Assurance of Forgiveness:

One: Friends, like rain falling on dry land, we receive the mercy and grace of Jesus who does not give up on us or our world. We are forgiven and immersed in the waters of life that refresh us to rise in God's joy, peace, and purpose.

All: May God our Creator who brought water from the rock sustain us in the desert. May Christ our Lord who is Living Water refresh us for the work of restoration. And may the Holy Spirit carry us on currents of grace until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

One: The Spirit of God binds us together as a community of faith, to share the love and peace that God so generously bestows on us. May the peace of Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you

One: Amen. Let us greet each other with God's love.

Children's Message and Blessing

Song of Preparation Peace like a River #623

Prayer for Understanding God's Word

One: Holy Spirit, we offer this reading of scripture to you. Open our hearts and minds to hear what you are saying to us today.

Reading from the Prophets Ezekiel 47:9,12

Reading from the Gospels John 7:37-39

Sermon Stepping into the River of Life

Prayer Song Oceans

Verse 1: You call me out upon the waters

The great unknown where feet may fail

And there I find You in the mystery

In oceans deep my faith will stand

Chorus: I will call upon Your Name
And keep my eyes above the waves
When oceans rise my soul will rest in Your embrace
For I am Yours and You are mine

Verse 2: Your grace abounds in deepest waters
Your sovereign hand will be my guide
Where feet may fail and fear surrounds me
You've never failed and You won't start now. **Chorus**

Bridge: Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders
Let me walk upon the waters
Wherever You would call me
Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander
And my faith will be made stronger
In the presence of my Savior. **Chorus**

Joys and Concerns
The Lord's Prayer (in template)

Invitation to the Offering
Doxology
Offertory
Prayer of Dedication

Sending Hymn Light Dawns on a Weary World #79 vs. 1,3

Benediction

Choral Amen

Postlude