

Youth Sunday 2020: Led by the Spirit

Although we are not able to gather in-person for worship, we are able to gather in spirit. This resource is designed to help us worship together around a common liturgy during this time of disruption from our normal routines and places. Use this liturgy on its own or as a companion to video devotion. Use it individually or as a family. If you are using it in a family setting, consider giving each person one part to “lead”. If using individually, try to carve out 10-minutes to quietly read, reflect, and pray through. No matter how you worship, God will show up. Liturgy this week was compiled by Rev. Annie Franklin Arvin with the help of Margaret Ernst and Kate Head.

Centering Poem - A Dove by Margaret Ernst

His feathers soft as silk
With his color as white as milk.
He flies with freshly olive greens
As something in your dreams.
With the symbol of peace
Letting your spirit’s joy increase.
With the water of God
Makes our love for Him broad.
As Noah lets three soar
Bringing peace to even the poor.
He brings lightness to all kind
Even the lives we can’t define.
So, we need to get through this together
And believe God will make this all better.
God has given us Spirit
Let’s live it, not fear it.

Opening Prayer (included in video)

If you’re using this written liturgy alongside the worship video, start the video now.

Good and gracious God, please draw us near to you today.
Open our hearts and our minds
so they may be led by the Spirit that is at work among us.
Amen.

Old Testament Reading - Genesis 8:6-11 (included in video)

After forty days Noah opened a window he had made in the ark and sent out a raven, and it kept flying back and forth until the water had dried up from the earth. Then he sent out a dove to see if the water had receded from the surface of the ground. But the dove could find nowhere to perch because there was

water over all the surface of the earth; so it returned to Noah in the ark. He reached out his hand and took the dove and brought it back to himself in the ark. He waited seven more days and again sent out the dove from the ark. When the dove returned to him in the evening, there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf! Then Noah knew that the water had receded from the earth. He waited seven more days and sent the dove out again, but this time it did not return to him.

By the first day of the first month of Noah's six hundred and first year, the water had dried up from the earth. Noah then removed the covering from the ark and saw that the surface of the ground was dry. By the twenty-seventh day of the second month the earth was completely dry.

New Testament Reading - Mark 1:9-11 (included in video)

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 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. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

Reflection Questions - by Kate Head

If you're using this resource alongside the worship video consider pausing after the scripture readings to reflect upon where God might be moving. If you're using the liturgy on it's own, let these questions lead you in a guided reflection of the scriptures.

1. Why did Noah feel like it was necessary to send a raven and a dove?
2. Do you need a sign like a dove to believe in God and Jesus?
3. When God spoke to Jesus, could everyone gathered around here his voice?
4. Similar to the last question, when the heavens were torn open, could everyone see heaven?

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (included in video)

We asked who and what in the world are we praying for. Below you'll find the list of the people we are praying with and for this week. With each person or group of people, take a moment to offer a prayer to God.

God of grace, we trust in your Spirit that leads your people in the world still.
With faith in your presence, we offer to you these prayers.

- prayers for healthcare workers
- prayers for those who are sick and ill
- prayers for world leaders

-prayers for essential workers including medical professionals, truck drivers, delivery services workers
-prayers for scientists and researchers

God, we give these prayers to you knowing in faith that your Spirit is at work. We pray now the prayer your son Jesus Christ taught us praying...

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name.
Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. **Amen.**

Benediction

Close your eyes.
Take a deep breath.
Listen.
Go where the Spirit is leading you.
Amen.