

February 1-Written Service

Special Music- Tegan Lindgren

Praise Team- Lesley and Neil Bartholomew, Lindsay Hunter, Judie Campbell, Collen Turner, Merlin Thompson

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: Today we come to worship God

All: In spirit and in truth!

Leader: We come to empty ourselves for you.

All: Receive our praise and worship, our joys and sorrows, and our hopes and fears.

Leader: We give all of ourselves to you in worship,

All: So that you will fill us up with your Spirit

Leader: And send us out into the world again to continue the work of Your kingdom!

All: Let us lift up our voices in praise!

Song: We Bow Down

You are Lord of creation and Lord of my life,
Lord of the land and the sea.

You were Lord of the heaven before there was time,
And Lord of all lords You will be!

We bow down and we worship You, Lord.
We bow down and we worship You, Lord.
We bow down and we worship You, Lord.
Lord of all lords You will be!

You are King of creation and King of my life,
King of the land and the sea.
You were King of the heaven before there was time,
And King of all kings You will be!

We bow down and we crown You the King.
We bow down and we crown You the King.
We bow down and we crown You the King.
King of all Kings You will be!

Prayer

Song: You are my All in All

You are my strength when I am weak;
You are the treasure that I seek.
You are my all in all.

Seeking You as a precious jewel;
Lord, to give up, I'd be a fool.
You are my all in all.

Jesus, Lamb of God,
Worthy is Your name.
Jesus, Lamb of God,
Worthy is Your name.

Taking my sin, my cross, my shame;
Rising again, I bless Your name.
You are my all in all.

When I fall down You pick me up;
When I am dry you fill my cup.
You are my all in all.

Jesus, Lamb of God,
Worthy is Your name.
Jesus, Lamb of God,
Worthy is Your name.

Announcements

Special Music: I Just Want to Be Where You Are sung by Tegan Lindgren

Congregational Prayer

Ordination and Installation of Elder and Deacon

Song: #389- Spirit of the Living God

Spirit of the living God,
Fall fresh on me.

Spirit of the living God,
Fall fresh on me.

Melt me, mold me,
Fill me use me.
Spirit of the living God,
Fall fresh on me.

Soul of heaven, heart of God,
Wash over me.
Soul of heaven, heart of God,
Wash over me.

Cleanse me, teach me,
Hold me, reach me.
Soul of heaven, heart of God,
Wash over me.

Holy presence, love divine,
Cast out my fear.
Holy presence, love divine,
Cast out my fear.

Shield me, free me,
Call me, lead me.
Holy presence, love divine,
Cast out my fear.

Offering/Offertory

Offering Song: Open Our Eyes

Offering Prayer

Children's Message

Scripture: Acts 1: 1-9, Acts 2: 1-4, Acts 2: 42-47

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ²until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. ⁴On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but

wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

⁶ Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

⁷ He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Message

Intro

“What are you going to do?” Dr. Marcia asked the man who had recently lost his wife, moved across the country, and was struggling to find the fresh start he was hoping for.

“I’m going to get out of bed every morning. Breathe in and out, all day long. And after a while I won’t have to remind myself to get out of bed in the morning and breathe in and out. And then after a while I won’t have to think about how I had it great and perfect for a while.”

New beginnings are often difficult, but it’s especially challenging to begin again when you were happy where things were

When everything had been going in a good direction

But sometimes, starting again is not the choice we would have made

Scripture- Acts 1:1-9; 2:1-4, 42-47

Transition for early believers

Last week we talked about Jesus beginning His ministry on earth

As that unfolded, He did amazing and miraculous things

People were healed, lives were transformed, the dead were raised, people forgot about food just to go and hear Him speak

He was betrayed, executed, and came back from the dead

Everything has changed, a movement has begun, the Kingdom of God was breaking into the here and now

And then...Jesus left

How do you make a new beginning after Jesus?

How begin again?

They were not expecting this and definitely not prepared for it

Jesus, are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel now?

They were asking Jesus what He was going to do next

He responds by telling them that the Holy Spirit will fall on *them*

And *you* will do these incredible things all around the world

Then boom, He's gone and there they stand

Times we struggle to begin again

Lost a job

How do I pay my bills? What do I do now? Do I need to move?

Loved one

Who am I sharing life with? Who's going to clean the gutters? Where are the Christmas decorations?

Retirement

Had a good conversation with someone about this recently, shared an article about how we forget to think about where we find purpose after our career is over

Empty nest

Life can get hectic and schedules are filled with activities and commitments

What does this look like when people start to spread their wings (and fly away)?

What this looked like in Acts

What is new grows out of what has been

They don't leave behind everything Jesus taught them

He gave them their direction and their first, next step (go to Jerusalem and wait for the Holy Spirit)

Led and empowered by the Holy Spirit

Jesus didn't abandon them

He sent them the Spirit to guide them

And to be the power that works in them and through them

The same Spirit that was present in Him

Building together

If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together. African Proverb

Sometimes we tend to isolate in these new circumstances

They remained together, relied on one another

Begin with basics

Get out of bed every morning. Breathe in and out.

Teaching. Fellowship. Breaking bread. Prayer. Community. Generosity. Worship.

None of these are radical new ideas

These continue what their movement had been doing while Jesus was present with them

All of this began a period of incredible growth
They grew deeper in their faith, closer to one another, and added daily to their numbers
How we follow that example
Every one of us will have times where we are beginning again in ways we would never have chosen.
Sometimes in ways we wouldn't have even expected
For us too:
What comes next grows out of what has been
We don't lose the past, we carry it with us
It shapes what paths are in front of us
The road ahead may look different, but it shouldn't be completely foreign
We rely on the Holy Spirit
For believers, this is both a source of direction as we figure out where we go from here and the power that enables us to keep moving when our own strength fails us
We go together
Continue to surround ourselves with people that will walk alongside us
Encourage us, challenge us, inspire us
Start with the basics
Do what you know
What brings you life and maintains your connection to God?
These new beginnings are the hardest kind
But God often uses them to bring about the greatest fruit
The early church should have faltered, but by the grace of God and in the Spirit's power, it flourished
God continues to create streams in desert places, to bring beauty from ashes, and to put new songs in our mouths.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Song: #377- Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

Alleluia! sing to Jesus!
His the scepter, His the throne.
Alleluia! His the triumph,
His the victory alone.

Hark! the songs of peaceful Zion
Thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of every nation
Has redeemed us by His blood."

Alleluia! not as orphans
Are we left in sorrow now.
Alleluia! He is near us;
Faith believes, nor questions how.

Tho' the clouds of sight received Him
When the forty days were o'er,
Shall our hearts forget His promise:
"I am with you evermore"?

Alleluia! Bread of Heaven,
You on earth our food and stay!
Alleluia! here the sinful
Flee to You from day to day.

Intercessor, Friend of sinners,
Earth's Redeemer, plead for me,
Where the songs of all the sinless
Sweep across the crystal sea.

Benediction

Postlude