



WORSHIP GUIDE

March 15, 2020

ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

CENTERING

The seeds are spread on the path, on rocks, and among the thorns.

We worship the divinity embedded in creation by the creator. God is worthy. God is gracious.

Let us ready ourselves for worship. We open our hearts and minds that we may be inspired to be the good soil on which the seeds are spread.

PRAYER

Lord, You are the Ancient Gardener. You created the garden of Eden and all life on earth and tend to us all still today. As we worship, we pray that You will plant Your Holy Word in our hearts as good seed in fertile soil. Nurture us so that we may bear fruit abundantly for Your kingdom and Your glory. Amen.

LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

CALL TO THE WORD

As we hear and obey God's Word, truth becomes virtue in our lives. But those whose hearts are hard, shallow or distracted do not gain any lasting benefit from hearing truth. So let us make every effort to make the soil of our hearts receptive to God's Word as we stand in body or in Spirit for today's reading.

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 4:1-9

SERMON

Come Here . . . Lean In . . . Listen!

Pastor Vicki Robinson

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

LITANY FOR LISTENING

God, who so graciously speaks to us and is present to us, help us to be present to You, and to Your people.

We confess that we are distracted and noisy people. We confess that we have avoided quieting ourselves before You.

We confess that we've been afraid of what You might say to us. We confess that we are often so busy speaking that all we hear is our own opinions.

Show us how to listen attentively, and to love our neighbors near and far.

Show us how to open our ears and hearts to those of different cultures, races, backgrounds, belief systems.

May we make space in our lives to hear Your voice and do Your good work. May we know Your voice.

May we overcome our fears of shame, and our reluctance to experience awkward moments. May we follow the promptings of Your Spirit without hesitation.

May our hearts be big enough to hold the stories we hear. May we live love loudly and listen quietly.

Be near to us as we do the work of quieting our souls, that we may listen and learn from those around us.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

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PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We bring You only what is Yours, Creator God, that You might use this offering and the giver for the building up of Your kingdom and the glory of Your name. Amen.

DEPART WITH GOD'S WORD

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you;

the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you;

the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace.
(Num. 6:24-26)