

Sunday Worship, May 24, 2020
Memorial Day Weekend
Willerup United Methodist Church
Order of Worship and Notes
Pastor Marvin Singh

Welcome to Willerup Worship on the Web!

Today's Worship includes:

Praise Band –

I Raise a Hallelujah

In Christ Alone

Sermon – I Have Placed Before You an Open Door, Revelation 3:7-13 (notes below)

Hymn – Because He Lives, verses 1 & 3

(Lyrics available at willerupumc.org, or found as #364 in the *United Methodist Hymnal*)

Sermon: I Have Placed Before You an Open Door
Revelation 3:7-13

The Spirit of the Lord, writing to the church of Philadelphia.

From: *One who is holy and true,
who holds the key of David.
What He opens no one can shut,
and what He shuts no one can open.*

He also knows the deeds and strengths of this church.

Recognized that this church has kept His word and not denied His name.

The question comes, why did God shut the door in the beginning? What had happened to the door?

Let us go to the Book of Genesis 3:23-24

So the Lord God banished him (Adam) from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

What had Adam and Eve done? (Genesis 3)

1. They disobeyed the command and broke the covenant with God.
2. God had made them holy, but due to their rebellion they become unholy and corrupt.
3. They were ashamed to come into His holy presence when they found themselves to be naked and considered themselves unholy.
4. They began to walk in the counsel of wickedness, began to stand in the way of sinners and sit in the seat of mockers. They had company with the evil devil instead of the Holy God.

3. Later in the years God was so grieved with their corruption that he regretted that he had created them. *Genesis 6:5-6, The Lord saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart were only evil all the time. The Lord grieved that he made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain.*

4. Psalm 1

Man, who lost their blessedness,
began to walk in the counsel of wickedness,
begin to stand in the way of sinners
and to sit in the seat of mockers.
They become chaff that the wind is blowing them away.
They did not have the foundation of truth where they can stand.

From the image of God
they changed from truth to lies
from holiness (where they had relationship with God every day) – they turned to the shame of nakedness that made them avoid the presence of God (in the Garden of Eden, they hid themselves).
From purity to impurities,
as they enjoyed the assembly of sinners, which leads to perishing.

5. Demas began his Christian life's journey with Paul, but what distracted him from God? *For Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. 2 Timothy 4:10*

John warned the church against loving the world.

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world – the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does – comes not from the Father but from the world. 1 John 2:15-16

5. God gave them a warning to be prepared at all times, but they had to go to the last-minute shopping to purchase items which can keep their lamps burning and show the light. The Bridegroom came and they were late, the door was already shut. Matthew 25:10

25:11-12, *Later the others also came, "Sir! Sir!" they said. "Open the door for us!" But he replied, "I tell you the truth, I don't know you."*

What was missing? Their lights which can show them the paths in the dark night. Psalm 119:105 says, *Your word is a lamp to my feet and light for my path.* They were missing the Light which was Christ (John 1:4-5). Jesus said I am the light of the world (John 8:12). They did not have the light which was Jesus that opens the door for them.

6. Eutychus' story in Acts 20

There were many lamps in the upstairs room where we they were meeting. Eutychus chose to sit at a window when Paul was preaching. He closed his ears towards the Word of God, and did not realize that it was a not safe place to sit. When you don't hear the word of God or give ear to what the Spirit is saying to you, you are bound to fall. Eutychus' eyes are closed and which resulted in a mighty fall.

How was he restored?

Paul came down and threw himself on the young man and put his arms around him and brought back to life and to the upper room for fellowship.

God was looking down toward men, and his heart was bleeding to bring them back to Him. While we were sinners, yet He died for us. He showed his love through sending his beloved son for us to die for our sins and pay the penalty of our sins which was death. John 3:16

Jesus had to come and opened that door for us.

He said, *I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.*

No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14:6

I am the door. John 10:7 & 9

He went to the cross to pay the penalty of sin, the wages of sin which was death (Romans 3:23, 6:23). He took upon himself all our sin and nailed it to the cross (Colossians 2:13-15). The Son of God become the son of Man so that the sons of men may become the children of God. (C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*)

He paid the price of our rebellion and pleaded to God,

Father forgive them because they do not know what they are doing. (Luke 23:34)

He paid the price of rebellion, disobedience, wickedness and unholiness. He paid it all through his precious blood.

Now, no more eternal death, no more curse. (1 Corinthians 15:54-58, Romans 8:1-2)
The curtain has been torn from top to bottom. Now we can enter, through the precious blood of Christ, into the holy presence of God.

He gave up his spirit. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to the bottom. (Matthew 27:50-51)

The barrier between God and humanity was removed. Now all people are free to approach God because of Christ's sacrifice (Hebrews 10:19-23).

He entered with his own blood and obtained eternal redemption.

He has opened the door.

1. We can come to the Father's presence through him now. The door to the presence of God is open now. You can be reconciled with the Lord through Jesus. If you are feeling left out please call on the Lord, He is available. Psalm 34:4

You can call us too, at Willerupumc.org or call at the church number on our website (608-423-3777), or email at churchoffice@willerupumc.org. If you have a prayer request, please don't hesitate, our whole church prays, besides a prayer team.

2. He also opens the door for missionary activities. The Gentiles (non-Jews) were open to come and claim Him as their Father. 2 Corinthians 2:12; Colossians 4:3. Acts 27 opened the door for ministry in the midst of storm.

3. At this time, the doors are closed, but what an opportunity which God has opened the door for us.

a. In the closed door he has opened the door for the ministry of prayer and intercession. There are more prayer meetings going on in the world today than ever before.

b. There are more ONLINE services, which have opened the ways and means to reach out through the closed doors.

c. You can call people and besides asking how they are doing, can also assure them and give them the reason of your hope in the midst of gloom, grief and fear (1 Peter 3:15).

f. The Lord has opened the door to show more generosity to the people in need. Count your blessings and name them one by one, and then share the blessings with others. The door of sacrificial giving is open to bless others. Our Willerup Church through the Good Samaritan Fund has blessed many. You cannot imagine the joy it brings to you when you give to someone in need. Nalini and myself have experienced this blessing, and we thank God for opening the door for us.