



*the open door ~ praise & worship service*  
*...in a religion born in a barn, an open door goes without saying*  
03.15.17 • 7:00 pm

## **welcome & announcements**

**song** "Here I am to Worship"

**song** "Come ye Sinners"

## **children's moment**

**holy scripture** "John 3:1-17" [VOICE]

At this time, Israel's Roman occupiers have given a small group of Sadducees and Pharisees limited powers to rule, and Nicodemus is one of the Pharisees. He holds a seat on the ruling council known as the Sanhedrin, and surprisingly Nicodemus is among those who seek Jesus for His teaching. It appears that he believes more about Jesus than he wants others to know, so he comes at night.

<sup>1</sup>Nicodemus was one of the Pharisees, a man with some clout among his people. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus under the cloak of darkness to question Him.

**Nicodemus:** Teacher, some of us have been talking. You are obviously a teacher who has come from God.

The signs You are doing are proof that God is with You.

**Jesus:** <sup>3</sup>I tell you the truth: only someone who experiences birth for a second time<sup>[a]</sup> can *hope to see the kingdom of God*.

**Nicodemus:** <sup>4</sup>*I am a grown man*. How can someone be born again when he is old *like me*? Am I to crawl back into my mother's womb for a second birth? *That's impossible!*

**Jesus:** <sup>5</sup>I tell you the truth, if someone does not experience water and Spirit birth, there's no chance he will make it into God's kingdom. <sup>6</sup>*Like from like*.

Whatever is born from flesh is flesh; whatever is born from Spirit is spirit.

<sup>7</sup>Don't be shocked by My words, *but I tell you the truth*. Even you, *an educated and respected man among your people*, must be reborn *by the Spirit to enter the kingdom of God*. <sup>8</sup>The wind<sup>[b]</sup> blows all around us as if it has a will of its own; we *feel and hear* it, but we do not understand where it has come from or where it will end up. Life in the Spirit is as if it were the wind of God.

**Nicodemus:** <sup>9</sup>I still do not understand how this can be.

**Jesus:** <sup>10</sup> Your responsibility is to instruct Israel *in matters of faith*, but you do not comprehend *the necessity of life in the Spirit?* <sup>11</sup> I tell you the truth: we speak about the things we know, and we give evidence about the things we have seen, and you choose to reject *the truth of our witness*. <sup>12</sup> If you do not believe when I talk to you about ordinary, earthly realities, then heavenly realities will certainly elude you. <sup>13</sup> No one has ever journeyed to heaven above except the One who has come down from heaven—the Son of Man, who is of heaven. <sup>14</sup> Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness. In the same way, the Son of Man must be lifted up; <sup>15</sup> then all those who believe in Him will experience everlasting life. <sup>16</sup> For God expressed His love for the world in this way: He gave His only Son so that whoever believes in Him will not face everlasting destruction, but will have everlasting life. <sup>17</sup> Here's the point. God didn't send His Son into the world to judge it; instead, He is here to rescue a world *headed toward certain destruction*.

*The Word of God to the People of God! **Thanks be to God!***

**reflection**

"Liminal Space"

**visio divina**

"Wait for It"

[video by TWOTP, music by Shellee Layne Coley, poem by Kelly Ann Hall]

**silent prayer of confession**

**presentation of the offerings**

**holy communion**

**song**

"Beautiful Things"

**song**

"Break Every Chain"

**benediction & passing the peace**

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