

Worship Discussion and Reflection Questions

Sermon Series: Ancient Voices for Unsettled Times

Sermon: Joel: Torn Open, Poured Out

Scripture: Joel 2:12-13, 28

12 “Yet even now,” declares the Lord,
“return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
13 and rend your hearts and not your garments.”
Return to the Lord your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;
and he relents over disaster.

28 “And it shall come to pass afterward,
that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh;
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
your old men shall dream dreams,
and your young men shall see visions.

Reflection Questions:

1. What do you think of when you think of the prophets? Do you picture them as intense or frightening? What do you make of the claim that they embody the “divine pathos,” God’s passionate care for humanity and His creation? How do you see that?
2. Have you ever struggled with “rending your heart, and not your garments?” Are there any things you feel like you’re holding back from God in prayer? How might Psalm 51:17 help you think of confession in prayer as an act of worship?
3. Have you ever wondered if God is “cranky” or disappointed with you? How has this impacted the way you relate to Him?
4. What do you make of the prophecy in Joel 2:28? When you think of prophecies, dreams, and visions, what comes to mind?
5. Read Acts 2. What do you make of the events that take place and Peter’s sermon? Do you find yourself more reticent or excited when it comes to the Holy Spirit?

Guided Prayer:

Pray that God would fill you with the Holy Spirit, and that you would live by the Spirit and keep in step with Him. Ask God for how you can encourage and build up the church.