

With the Spirit: We Can!

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor” (Luke 4: 18 & 19). The next day, he tells the crowds following him: “I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other cities also, for I was sent for this purpose” (Luke 4:43-44).

As his followers, we too are called and sent **to do Jesus’ mission**. Using the words from the LeAnn Rimes song: **“WE CAN** do these things.” **But, as Christians, we do them best through the power of the Holy Spirit, not on our own strength, wisdom, or might.**

We are the body of Christ together here in this place. When we are here together we are **“the church gathered.”** But, the other six days of the week, we disburse to go “with one voice, one heart, and two hands” take Jesus’ mission into the world. When we disperse from this place, we are **“the church scattered.”**

Jesus modeled for us extraordinary_____ and_____.

“Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace” (Luke 8:48).

We are also called to be_____with others...especially those_____.

*“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people from one another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; **for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me**’... (Matt. 25:31-36).*

When we walk and live in the _____, we lean toward giving _____ to others.

“We do not see that justice is always done on earth. Many of naves is rich, sleek, and honored while the just man is poor; hated and in torment. I do not pretend to understand the moral universe. The arc is a long one. My eye reaches but little ways. I cannot calculate the curve and complete the figure by the experience of sight. I can divide it by conscience, but from what I see, I am sure that it bends toward justice” (Pastor Theodore Parker, sermon in 1850).