

Soul-Strengthening

Jesus warns us: it's possible to gain the whole world, but lose our very own soul. And we *know* it's possible. This worship series is an invitation to go deeper in your Christian faith. Snippets from the story of the Old Testament leader Moses, may help you listen to your own life story. The wisdom of the Gospel story, along with passages from the book of Romans will invite you to seek your true self in Christ.

Janice Sutter will preach this series of four sermons, inspired by Ruth Haley Barton's book, *Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership*. Each week, the bulletin will list suggestions to guide you in a few moments of quiet time, should you choose to accept this invitation to "go deeper." There will be several opportunities for prayer and/or anointing during this worship series. May this be a time for you to call on God and be made bold with strength in your soul.

January 24 *Is anything worth more than your soul?*
Matthew 16:26 & Romans 12:1-2.

January 31 *What lies beneath*
Exodus 2:11-15 & Romans 7:21-25.

February 7 *The place of our own conversion*
Exodus 2:22 & Romans 8:1-5.

At the birth of his son, Moses learns something about himself. Once he claims his greatest pain and brokenness, something is revealed to him. How do we come to see our true self, hidden in Christ, and revealed by God? How do we come to the place of "letting go" into God's love?

February 14 *The practice of paying attention*
Exodus 5:2-3 & Luke 24: 28-35. **Communion.**

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*O God of such truth as sweeps away all lies
of such grace as shrivels all excuses,
come now to find us
for we have lost our selves
in a shuffle of disguises
and the rattle of empty words.*

*Let your Spirit move mercifully
to recreate us from
the chaos of our lives.*

*We have been careless
of our days
our loves,
our gifts,
our chances...*

*Our prayer is to change, O God,
not out of despair of self
but for love of you,
and for the selves we long to become
before we simply waste away.*

Let your mercy move in and through us now...

Amen.

Ted Loder, *My Heart in my Mouth*