

Sermon Notes

Sermon Title: Time to Rebuild the Temple

Ezra 6:13-16; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NIV)

1. In the Old Testament, because of their disobedience, the Jews were conquered and exiled to Babylon where they remained for 70 years. The temple in Jerusalem and the walls of Jerusalem were also destroyed.
2. At the end of their exile, those who wanted to return to Jerusalem were allowed to go back. Many stayed.
3. The Babylonian king gave instructions that the walls of Jerusalem and, later, the temple could both be rebuilt. All of the Jews contributed with contributions or work to rebuild both. The construction was symbolic of their return to the Lord and worship.
4. In a way, Covid caused many people in churches to be exiled to their homes and, at best, watch some kind of streamed church. The division in the United Methodist Church has added to that exile as people have been trying to understand the implications.
5. That exile is over! It is time to rebuild the temple and get back not only to church but to fulfilling the calling that God has given all of us.
6. Part of that rebuilding comes from within - we are the temples of the Holy Spirit. So it is time to rebuild our faith and to reach out to rebuild the church!