

JANUARY 24th, 2021

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Welcome and Announcements

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive):

Pastor: The call to be one of God's prophets can come to us unexpectedly, at any time or any place.

People: God may instruct us to proclaim Good News to others even when we do not feel like doing so.

Pastor: Why would the Lord tell us to share the Gospel message with people whom we consider to be unredeemable and beyond saving?

People: Because the Lord in His love will not rest until all people are given an opportunity to repent and find new life within the family of God.

Pastor: Let us worship the Lord and be enabled for the task of sharing our faith with the world!

#26 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison):

Holy God, please speak to us now as we gather to worship you, even if what you have to say is a challenging word. And if, like the prophet Jonah, we do not like what we hear, help us to respond faithfully to your word anyway. Move us to reassess our comfortable ideas and long-held understandings and not allow them to harden into stubborn prejudices. Open our hearts to your love for all people, even those who are seemingly unredeemable, and help us to live more faithfully in accordance with your will. And empower us to reach out to people with whom we have little in common and share the Gospel with them, because they may be the very people you are anxious to reach. We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, who taught us to pray like this, saying...

#PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR (Unison)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

#GLORIA PATRI (Unison):

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

SCRIPTURE READING: Mark 1:14-20 and Jonah 3:1-5, 10

SERMON MESSAGE: *Even the Ninevites* Rev. Gagnon

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Prayer Requests
Silent Prayer
Pastoral Prayer

BLESSING OF OUR OFFERINGS

#Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

Gracious God, we ask that you help us love the world more deeply by blessing and using our offerings. And we pray that, with our gifts, we might carry out your work of transforming the hearts and minds of even those we consider to be unredeemable, and bringing them into your fold. May this church never be reluctant to proclaim the reality of your presence and activity on earth to all people and leave judgment in your hands, because through such prophetic work we can help to change many lives for the better. Amen.

#S-2 Christ for the World We Sing!

BENEDICTION (Responsive):

Pastor: We are prophets like Jonah was. We have been commissioned and blessed.

People: We will not try to escape our responsibility by running away when God calls us to be spokespersons.

Pastor: God sends us out into the world with an important message to proclaim: that of divine mercy and forgiveness for all who seek it.

People: The Lord directs us to speak the truth in love to those whose lives are in need of change so they will return to the Lord and find redemption.

Pastor: Go in peace to tell the world about God's transforming grace and love.

POSTLUDE

DISMISSAL