

Jonah and a God with a mission. Are you in?

The book of Jonah ends with a question from God for Jonah: *"Should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?"* In effect, God is asking Jonah if it is OK with him if he loves his enemies. Is it OK if God loves the people Jonah hates? Is it OK if he wants to save the bad guys and their animals?

In the end we don't know what Jonah said. We don't know if he was willing to go that far with God. But we do know that God goes that far. God goes that far in Nineveh and on the cross. Paul puts it this way in Romans, *"For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!"* God loves his enemies and sends his son to make his enemies his friends. That is God's mission and our salvation.

So, what do you think? Is it OK with you if God wants to bless the people you often curse? Is it OK with you if the holy one wants to care for the people you think are unholy or deplorable? And, is it OK with you if God uses you to do the loving, caring, and saving?

The book of Jonah begs these questions. It asks us to ask about the deepest desires of our hearts. It asks us if we have God's heart for the world he so loves. So get ready to laugh and cry and ask the hard questions in response to the good news.

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Welcome!

We are grateful that you joined us today for worship and would love to keep in touch. We have a nursery for infants and toddlers. After the Passing of the Peace, Pre-K through 2nd Grade continue to worship upstairs. After the service, please join us downstairs for refreshments provided by our Goodness Group.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Refreshments for next Sunday: Faithfulness Group. Contact Barbara Cornett 898-7661

Arbor Dale Ladies Luncheon - Saturday, May 19 at 11:30 a.m. at Pink Willis' home. See insert for more information.

Bluegrass and BBQ - Sunday, June 3 at 5 p.m. Your donations will help support the Nicaragua team!

Contact Information: If your email or phone number has changed, or if you haven't been receiving emails from the church, please let Patty know. keeneplk@gmail.com or call 828-393-9361.

Prayer of Preparation

Dear God,
help us to worship you today.
May we listen carefully,
pray honestly, and sing joyfully.
Send your Holy Spirit so that
our words will bring you glory.
Thank you that Jesus makes our
worship perfect for you.
Help us remember that when
we worship you, we are part of
your family; we join everyone
who loves you around the world
and throughout history.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Personal thoughts and prayer reminders

* Congregation Stands

Service for the Lord's Day — 6 May 2018

Greeting

Leader: *Christ is Risen!*

All: **He is Risen Indeed!**

Welcome & Announcements

* Call to Worship

~based on Romans 6:9-10

Leader: *Jesus Christ, you come to transfigure us and renew us in the image of God:*

All: **shine in our darkness.**

Leader: *Jesus Christ, light of our hearts, you know our thirst:*

All: **lead us to the wellspring of your gospel.**

Leader: *Jesus Christ, light of the world, you shine in every human being:*

All: **enable us to discern your presence in each person.**

Leader: *Jesus Christ, friend of the poor:*

All: **open in us the gates of simplicity so that we can welcome you.**

Leader: *Jesus Christ, gentle and humble of heart:*

All: **renew in us the spirit of childhood.**

Leader: *Jesus Christ, you send your church to prepare your path in the world:*

All: **open for all people the gates of your kingdom. Amen.**

* Opening Hymn

#143 *This is My Father's World*
(verses 1, 2)

* Opening Prayer

* Confession

Lord, you are a God who keeps promises. In our prayers and songs we say that we want to be Christians, but then we forget our promises. Our actions do not match up with our words. We say mean things to other people, we hurt their feelings, we think of ourselves first, and, worst of all, we ignore you. Lord, forgive us and hear our prayer for Jesus' sake. Amen.

* Assurance of Pardon

~based on 1 Timothy 1:15; 1 Peter 2:24

Hear the good news: This saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good. I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

* Hymn

#143 *This is My Father's World* ~ final verse

*This is my father's world
Oh, let me never forget
That though the wrong
seems oft so strong
God is the ruler yet*

*This is my Father's world
The battle is not done
Jesus who died shall be satisfied
And earth and heav'n be one.*

* The Gloria Patri and Passing the Peace

Children's Sermon

Prayers of the People

* Hymn of Praise

Speak, O Lord (see insert)

Scripture and Sermon

Jonah 1:1-16. *It's not about the Fish...*

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Leader: *The Lord be with you*

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: *Lift up your hearts*

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Offering and Offertory

* Affirmation of Faith

I Timothy 1:15-17

Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. 16 But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. 17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

* Hymn of Dedication

#337 *Nothing but the Blood*

* Benediction