

## **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.

### **Contact Information**

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**May 20, 2018**

## **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 Joy Group.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Refreshments for next Sunday:**

Peace Group. Contact Isabel Peterson 828-964-1402.

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

**FREE Dahlia Tubers** are available downstairs. Help yourselves!

**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](mailto:keeneplk@gmail.com) or call 828-393-9361.

# Prayer of Preparation

Our Father in Heaven, for each one who leads us in worship today, we pray that they may be so filled with your Spirit that they will clearly reflect the glory of Christ in all they say and do. We pray that everyone in this place will know you are with and be drawn to bring you all honor and praise. Amen.

## Personal thoughts and prayer reminders

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## Service for the Lord's Day — 20 May 2018

### Greeting

Leader: Christ is Risen!

All: He is Risen Indeed!

### Welcome & Announcements

#### \* Call to Worship

~Psalm 24:7-10, NIV

Leader: Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

All: Who is this King of glory?

Leader: The lord strong and mighty, the lord mighty in battle.

All: Lift up your heads, you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

Leader: Who is he, this King of glory?

All: The LORD Almighty— he is the King of glory.

#### \* Opening Hymn

#90 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee  
(verses 1, 2, 3)

### Call to Confession

~from Psalm 32:1-6, NRSV

The psalmist testifies:

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you.

#### \* Confession

Awesome and compassionate God, you have loved us with unflinching, self-giving mercy, but we have not loved you. You constantly call us, but we do not listen. You ask us to love, but we walk away from

neighbors in need, wrapped in our own concerns. We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed. God of grace, as you come to us in mercy, we repent in spirit and in truth, admit our sin, and gratefully receive your forgiveness through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.

#### \* Assurance of Pardon

In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, we are assured that there is no sin so terrible that God cannot forgive, no hurt so terrible that God cannot heal. The Father accepts, Christ forgives, and the Spirit sets free. So, receive the forgiving love of God. Amen.

#### \* Hymn

#90 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee (v.4)

#### \* Passing the Peace

#### Children's Sermon

#### Prayers of the People

#### \* Hymn of Preparation #409 Thanks to God Whose Word Was Spoken

#### Scripture and Sermon

Jonah 3 ~ A Story of Overcoming

#### 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. 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. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

#### \* Hymn of Dedication

#589 Here I Am, Lord

#### \* Benediction