

Worship Sunday, March 11, 2018

GATHERING

Prelude

Confession and Forgiveness

This confession provides extended silence for listening, pondering, and self-reflection. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

*In the name of the Father,
and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*

Amen.

*God of heaven and earth,
you come in close and make us yours.
Equip us by your Spirit to confess our sin,
embrace your forgiveness,
and seek the way you set before us in your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Amen.

With honesty of heart, let us confess our sin.

An extended silence may be kept.

Merciful God,

forgive us.

Our will is handcuffed to sin, and we cannot break free.

Like Jonah, we have spoken when we should have been silent.

Silence.

Like Jonah, we have run from you when we should have listened to your call.

Silence.

Like Jonah, we have withheld your grace from others.

Silence.

Like Jonah, we need a change of heart.

Silence.

**For the wrong we have done,
for the good we have failed to do,
have mercy on us,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

*People of God, look to ✝ Jesus,
given to forgive you, heal you, and set you free,
because God loved the world so much.
Take hold of life—eternal life!
Amen.*

Gathering Song

What Wondrous Love is This

Hymnal #666

1 What wondrous love is this,
O my soul, O my soul!
 What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
 What wondrous love is this
 that caused the Lord of bliss
 to bear the dreadful curse
for my soul, for my soul,
 to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?

2 When I was sinking down,
sinking down, sinking down,
 when I was sinking down, sinking down,
 when I was sinking down
 beneath God's righteous frown,
 Christ laid aside his crown
for my soul, for my soul,
 Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.

3 To God and to the Lamb
I will sing, I will sing;
 to God and to the Lamb I will sing;

to God and to the Lamb,
who is the great I AM,
while millions join the theme,
I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme, I will sing.

4 And when from death I'm free,
I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free,
I'll sing God's love for me,
and through eternity
I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and through eternity I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

Greeting

*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray:

*Gracious God, like Jonah, our words are inadequate in expressing your grace, and our hearts remain cold to your warming love. Yet you do extraordinary things through ordinary people like us. Use us, and all that we are, to bring about your mercy and goodness to all. In the name of Jesus.
Amen.*

Anthem

Ain'-a That Good News

Trad. Spiritual
arr. Mark Patterson

WORD

Holy Gospel

Matthew 12:38-42

Bible pg. 793

³⁸Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to him, "Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you." ³⁹But he answered them, "An evil and adulterous generation asks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. ⁴⁰For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, so for three days and three nights the Son of Man will be in the heart of the earth. ⁴¹The people of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the proclamation of Jonah, and see, something greater than Jonah is here! ⁴²The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth to listen to the wisdom of Solomon, and see, something greater than Solomon is here!

Word of God, Word of Life

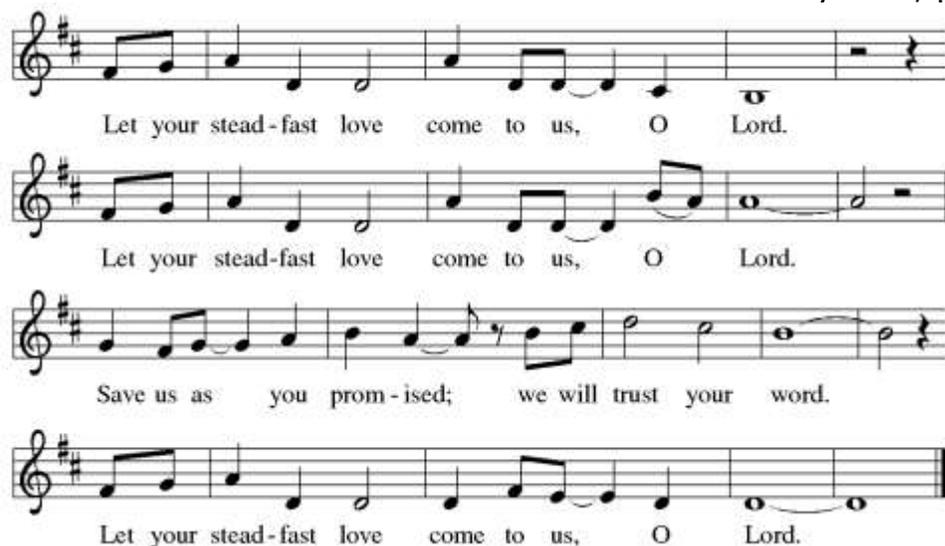
Thanks be to God

Children's Message

Please stand, as you are able

Acclamation

Hymnal, pg. 189



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

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Scripture Reading

Jonah 3:1-10

Bible pg. 752

The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you. ³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

⁶When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. ⁷Then he had a proclamation made in Nineveh: "By the decree of the king and his nobles: No human being or animal, no herd or flock, shall taste anything. They shall not feed, nor shall they drink water. ⁸Human beings and animals shall be covered with sackcloth, and they shall cry mightily to God. All shall turn from their evil ways and from the violence that is in their hands. ⁹Who knows? God may relent and change his mind; he may turn from his fierce anger, so that we do not perish."

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God

Please be seated

Message

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song

Hymn of the Day

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Hymnal #587

1 There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice
which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heav'n.
There is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgment giv'n.

2 There is welcome for the sinner,
and a promised grace made good;

there is mercy with the Savior;
there is healing in his blood.
There is grace enough for thousands
of new worlds as great as this;
there is room for fresh creations
in that upper home of bliss.

3 For the love of God is broader
than the measures of our mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
But we make this love too narrow
by false limits of our own;
and we magnify its strictness
with a zeal God will not own.

4 'Tis not all we owe to Jesus;
it is something more than all:
greater good because of evil,
larger mercy through the fall.
Make our love, O God, more faithful;
let us take you at your word,
and our lives will be thanksgiving
for the goodness of the Lord.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863, alt.

Apostles' Creed

Hymnal pg. 105

Let us confess our faith, using the words of the Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers

Hymnal #178

At the end of each petition, the assembly sings:



Hear our prayer, hear our prayer, Lord, make us whole:
peace to all peo - ple, hope for each soul.
God of grace, in this place, hear now our prayer.

Text and music: Paul Andress, b. 1956
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Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always
And also with you

MEAL

Offering

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

Anthem during the offering

Offertory For Such a Time as This

Could it be that we are called for such a time as this?
Could it be that we are called for such a time as this?

Other verses:

... that you are called
... that I am called

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Offering Prayer

Gracious and merciful God, you shower us with your blessings, even when we don't deserve them. Receive these, our gifts, as our grateful response to you. When we are tempted to run away from your call, when we are tempted to hoard your mercy for ourselves, remind us of your abundant grace that holds us all. Open our hearts and our hands to share your love with our neighbors and the whole world. In the name of your son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Lord's Prayer

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

*Return to God with all your heart.
Receive bread for the journey, drink for the desert.*

Music during Communion

Lamb of God

Hymnal pg. 154



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Anthem Come You Disconsolate Terre Johnson

Hymn I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say Hymnal #611

- 1 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down
your head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was,
so weary, worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting-place,
and he has made me glad.
- 2 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Behold, I freely give
the living water, thirsty one;
stoop down and drink and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.

3 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise,
and all your day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk
till trav'ling days are done.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-1889

Hymn God Loved the World

Hymnal #323

1 God loved the world so that he gave
his only Son the lost to save,
that all who would in him believe
should everlasting life receive.

2 Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,
who was made flesh and suffered death;
all who confide in Christ alone
are built on this chief cornerstone.

3 If you are ill, if death draws near,
this truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus rescues us from death;
that is the firmest ground of faith.

4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son
forgives all sins that you have done,
and justified by Jesus' blood,
your baptism grants the highest good.

5 All glory to the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To you, O blessed Trinity,
be praise now and eternally!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Bollhagen, 1791; tr. August Crull, 1846-1923, alt.

Hymn For the Bread Which You Have Broken

Hymnal #494

- 1 For the bread which you have broken,
for the wine which you have poured,
for the words which you have spoken,
now we give you thanks, O Lord.
- 2 By this promise that you love us,
by your gift of peace restored,
by your call to heav'n above us,
hallow all our lives, O Lord.
- 3 With the saints who now adore you,
seated at the heav'nly board,
may the church still waiting for you
keep love's tie unbroken, Lord.
- 4 In your service, Lord, defend us;
in our hearts keep watch and ward;
in the world to which you send us
let your kingdom come, O Lord.

Text: Louis F. Benson, 1855-1930, alt.
Text © Robert F. Jefferys Jr.

Table Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

Prayer after Communion

God of abundance, you have shared your gifts with us at this Table. You have filled us once again with your love. May your love overflow from us, as we seek to love one another and the whole world.

Amen

SENDING

Announcements

Benediction

May you hear God's call and go. May you be surrounded by +Christ's love that goes with you. And may you experience the surprising grace that will find you and change you. In the name of Jesus.

Amen

Sending Song

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer

Hymnal #618

- 1 Guide me ever, great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but you are mighty;
hold me with your pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.
- 2 Open now the crystal fountain
where the healing waters flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,
shield me with your mighty arm,
shield me with your mighty arm.
- 3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs and praises, songs and praises,
I will raise forevermore,
I will raise forevermore.

Text: William Williams, 1717-1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722-1796, alt.

Dismissal

*Marked with the cross of Christ,
go forth to love and serve the Lord.*

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Musicians: Little Saints & Joyful Kids choirs
Vinje Choir