

EPIPHANY 3 SUNDAY

January 24, 2021

Piano Prelude: Medley of Robbie Burns Songs

arr. by Bruce Nasmith

Welcome, Announcements & Worship Theme

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah... saying... go at once to Nineveh... But Jonah set out to flee... from the presence of the Lord. (Jonah 1:1-3)

We come to worship as those who often run away from things we should do.

We come to worship as those who are afraid of facing certain challenges.

We come to worship searching for faith and courage, hope and second chances, justice and forgiveness.

ALL: O, Ground of Being, Source of Life, meet us in this hour!

Hymn: "We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator"

No. 425

pianist & soloist Bruce Nasmith

1. We praise you, O God,
our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion
our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you;
we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name;
glad praises we sing.

2. We worship you; God
ever faithful, we bless you;
through life's storm and tempest
our guide you have been.

When perils o'ertake us,
you will not forsake us,
and with your help,
O Lord, life's battles we win.

3. With voices united
our praises we offer,
and gladly our songs
of true worship we raise.
Our sins now confessing,
we pray for your blessing;
to you, our great Redeemer,
forever be praise.

Prayer of Approach, Confession & The 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, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

The Peace of Christ be with you all;
And also with you.

Children's Theme for Church School

Special Music: Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness

Johann Franck

soloist Joanne Nasmith with guitarist Jim Nasmith

Scripture Reading: Jonah 1:1 - 2:10

Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai, saying, ²“Go at once to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before me.” ³But Jonah set out to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid his fare and went on board, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the LORD.

⁴ But the LORD hurled a great wind upon the sea, and such a mighty storm came upon the sea that the ship threatened to break up. ⁵Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried to his god. They threw the cargo that was in the ship into the sea, to lighten it for them. Jonah, meanwhile, had gone down into the hold of the ship and had lain down, and was fast asleep. ⁶The captain came and said to him, “What are you doing sound asleep? Get up, call on your god! Perhaps the god will spare us a thought so that we do not perish.”

⁷ The sailors said to one another, “Come, let us cast lots, so that we may know on whose account this calamity has come upon us.” So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. ⁸Then they said to him, “Tell us why this calamity has come upon us. What is your occupation? Where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?” ⁹“I am a Hebrew,” he replied. “I worship the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.” ¹⁰Then the men were even more afraid, and said to him, “What is this that you have done!” For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them so.

¹¹ Then they said to him, “What shall we do to you, that the sea may quieten down for us?” For the sea was growing more and more tempestuous. ¹²He said to them, “Pick me up and

throw me into the sea; then the sea will quieten down for you; for I know it is because of me that this great storm has come upon you.’¹³ Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to bring the ship back to land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more stormy against them.¹⁴ Then they cried out to the LORD, ‘Please, O LORD, we pray, do not let us perish on account of this man’s life. Do not make us guilty of innocent blood; for you, O LORD, have done as it pleased you.’¹⁵ So they picked Jonah up and threw him into the sea; and the sea ceased from its raging.¹⁶ Then the men feared the LORD even more, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows.

17 But the LORD provided a large fish to swallow up Jonah; and Jonah was in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights.

2 Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish, ²saying,
‘I called to the LORD out of my distress,
and he answered me;
out of the belly of Sheol I cried,
and you heard my voice.

³ You cast me into the deep,
into the heart of the seas,
and the flood surrounded me;
all your waves and your billows
passed over me.

⁴ Then I said, “I am driven away
from your sight;
how shall I look again
upon your holy temple?”

⁵ The waters closed in over me;
the deep surrounded me;
weeds were wrapped around my head

⁶ at the roots of the mountains.

I went down to the land
whose bars closed upon me for ever;
yet you brought up my life from the Pit,
O LORD my God.

⁷ As my life was ebbing away,
I remembered the LORD;
and my prayer came to you,
into your holy temple.

⁸ Those who worship vain idols
forsake their true loyalty.

⁹ But I with the voice of thanksgiving
will sacrifice to you;
what I have vowed I will pay.
Deliverance belongs to the LORD!

¹⁰ Then the LORD spoke to the fish, and it spewed Jonah out upon the dry land.

Jonah is given a second chance by God. Now he does go to Nineveh and proclaims there the prophecy of judgement God has commanded him to proclaim. But things take a surprising turn for Jonah in ways he could not have anticipated. The citizens of Nineveh respond to Jonah's message in ways he could never imagine. The story ends with a question, a question to Jonah which is also a question to every reader of this story, a question for you and me... We will explore this question and others too that arise from this fascinating story.

We are listening, O God;
Speak to us!

Sermon:

A STORY IN FIVE PARTS

Dr. Harris

Special Music: My love is like a red, red rose

Robbie Burns arr. by Bruce Nasmith

soloist Elias Theocharidis with pianist Bruce Nasmith

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Pastoral Concern

Hymn: "Forgive our sins as we forgive"

No. 751

soloist Erin Stone with organist Bruce Nasmith

1. 'Forgive our sins as we forgive,'
you taught us, Lord, to pray,
but you alone can grant us grace
to live the words we say.

3. In blazing light your cross reveals
the truth we dimly knew:
what trivial debts are owed to us,
how great our debt to you!

2. How can your pardon reach and bless
the unforgiving heart,
that broods on wrongs and will not let
old bitterness depart?

4. Lord, cleanse the depths
within our souls,
and bid resentment cease;
then, bound to all in bonds of love,
our lives will spread your peace.

Benediction

Threefold Amen

Organ Postlude: Highland Cathedral

U. Roever and M. Korb arr. B Nasmith



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