"Inspired by the love and teachings of Jesus Christ, the Barre Congregational Church seeks to be a welcoming and caring congregation that supports each other and serves the wider world."

The Barre Congregational Church
United Church of Christ



Jonah and the Whale
By Pieter Lastman, The Netherlands, 1621

Sunday, November 8th, 2026
24th Sunday After Pentecost

Rev. James Semmelroth Darnell
Pastor

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship
Pastor: The word of God came to Jonah
People: The word of God comes to us:
Pastor: Go
People: Despite your fears
Pastor: Speak
People: the truth of God
Pastor: Love
People: your neighbor and you enemy
Pastor: Forgive
People: as you have been forgiven
Pastor: Receive
People: grace upon grace overflowing from the fullness of God.

*Opening Hymn "Be Thou My Vision" #595

Prayer of Confession *(Unison)*
God of all peoples, what a blessing and privilege we share here in this sacred space and among this loving community. But, like Jonah, we sometimes are jealous of what we share here. We know that others are longing and thirsting for what we know and experience. Forgive us our reluctance to open our doors, open our hearts to others; some like us, some not. We repent of our hesitations and unwillingness to witness to those we have considered strangers and even enemies for fear they just might become friends. Amen.

Assurance of Grace

Reading from the Prophets Jonah 1: 1 - 17, 3: 1 - 10

Reading from the Gospels Mark 1: 14 - 20

Responding to the Word (*Responsive*)
One: The word of God, for the people of God.
All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon In the Belly of the Fish

Anthem

Expressions of Gratitude, Joys, and Concerns
After each prayer shared, we respond, ***"O Lord, hear our prayer."***

Pastoral Prayer (Responsive)
Pastor:...God, in your mercy.
People: Hear our prayer.

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 for 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 and ever. Amen.

*Hymn "Song of Jonah" Insert

Call to the Offering

Offertory

*Doxology
**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures high and low.
Praise God for all that love has done.
Creator, Christ, and Spirit one. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication

*Closing Hymn "The Voice of God Is Calling" Insert

Benediction

**Postlude

*Please stand if you are able.
**Please sit quietly for the postlude.

If you'd like to donate to the work of the BCC, please scan the QR Code with the camera application on your cell phone. A link will pop up. Please click it and fill out the donation form.

Welcome Guests!

We are so glad that you are worshiping with us today! The Barre Congregational Church, United Church of Christ is an open and affirming congregation where no matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here! We are blessed by your presence with us. Restrooms are located in the hallway to the right of the sanctuary and downstairs. We heartily invite you to join us for conversation and refreshments in our Fellowship Hall following the service.

We welcome the seekers.
We welcome those who question.
We welcome those who believe without question.
It is not for us to turn anyone away.
Arms wide open.
Welcome home.

Announcements:

Help make Sunday worship a welcoming experience for everyone! Jackie Johnson, Linda West, and Cary Friberg invite you to join them as a greeter. Never done it before? No worries! They'll give you a quick 10-minute training and cheer you on!

You can also sign up to be a lector (read Scripture) or usher. Sign up using the button below or the blue sign-up book at the back of the sanctuary. We'd love your help!
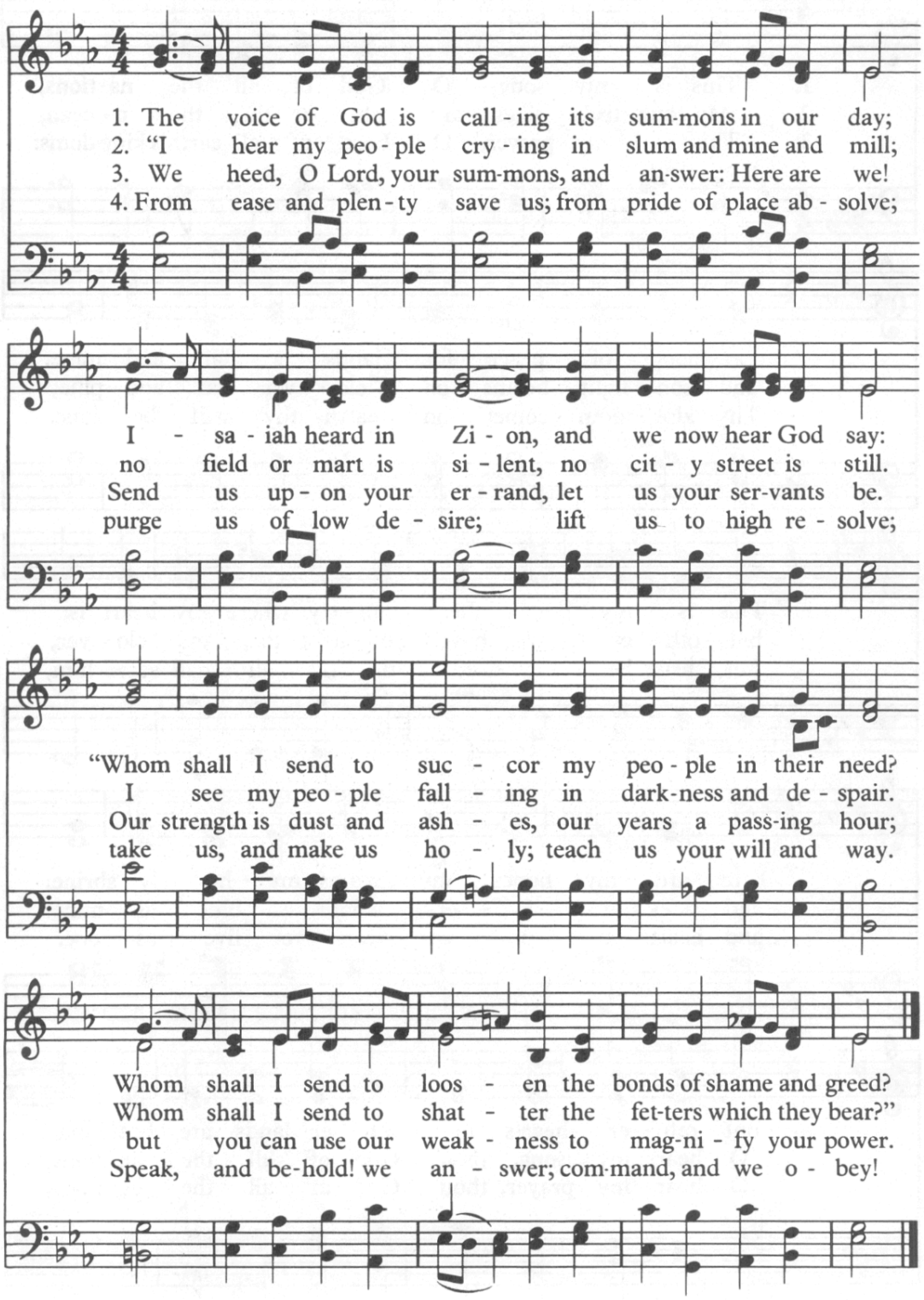
Upcoming events and meetings:

Sunday, November 8th: Handbell Practice 8:00 am
Choir Practice 8:45 am
Worship Service with Rev. James & Sunday School 9:30 am
Bible study: United Church of Christ History, Theology & Practices
Blessing of the Animals 3:00 pm
November 11th: Property Meeting
Finance Meeting
November 14th: Saturday Morning Breakfast 8:00 - 9:30 am
November 15th: Homecoming Sunday
Handbell Practice 8:00 am
Choir Practice 8:45 am
Worship Service with Rev. David & Sunday School 9:30 am
Bible study: United Church of Christ History, Theology & Practices
Please inform the church office of all upcoming events

Serving this Sunday

Cary Friberg, Lector
, Greeter
, Flowers
Mission and Outreach, Coffee Hour
Cary Friberg, Welcome
, Usher
Thank you to our volunteers for their service to the Church.

The Voice of God Is Calling 436



WORDS: John Haynes Holmes, 1913 (Is. 6:8)
MUSIC: William Lloyd, 1840

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