

Oak Creek Community United Methodist Church

August 24th, 2025

9:00 am

**PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE*



No matter where you are on your journey, ALL are welcome here.

Welcome & Opportunities for Service

Opening Prayer

*Opening Song

***Wonderful Words of Life* UMH #600**

Words & Music: Philip P. Bliss, 1874

Lifting Our Prayers & The Lord's Prayer

Please pray in the language that brings you closest to God.

Sacrament of Baptism

Scripture *Jonah 3* MSG

Maybe God Will Change His Mind

¹⁻² Next, God spoke to Jonah a second time: *"Up on your feet and on your way to the big city of Nineveh! Preach to them. They're in a bad way and I can't ignore it any longer."*

³ This time Jonah started off straight for Nineveh, obeying God's orders to the letter.

Nineveh was a big city, very big - it took three days to walk across it. ⁴ Jonah entered the city, went one day's walk and preached, *"In forty days Nineveh will be smashed."* ⁵ The people of Nineveh listened, and trusted God. They proclaimed a citywide fast and dressed in burlap to show their repentance. Everyone did it - rich and poor, famous and obscure, leaders and followers.

⁶⁻⁹ When the message reached the king of Nineveh, he got up off his throne, threw down his royal robes, dressed in burlap, and sat down in the dirt. Then he issued a public proclamation throughout Nineveh, authorized by him and his

leaders: *"Not one drop of water, not one bite of food for man, woman, or animal, including your herds and flocks! Dress them all, both people and animals, in burlap, and send up a cry for help to God. Everyone must turn around, turn back from an evil life and the violent ways that stain their hands. Who knows? Maybe God will turn around and change his mind about us, quit being angry with us and let us live!"*

¹⁰ God saw what they had done, that they had turned away from their evil lives. He *did* change his mind about them. What he said he would do to them he didn't do.

L: May God add a blessing to the reading, hearing & understanding of these words.

R: Thanks be to God.

*Song of Preparation

***Here I Am Lord* UMH #593**

Words & Music: Dan Schutte, 1981; Music adapt. by Carlton R. Young, 1988; © 1981, 1983, 1989 Daniel L. Schutte and NALR

Message: *Sunday School Stories: Jonah Part 3*

Scripture *Jonah 4* MSG

"I Knew This Was Going to Happen!"

¹⁻² Jonah was furious. He lost his temper. He yelled at God, *"God! I knew it—when I was back home, I knew this was going to happen! That's why I ran off to Tarshish! I knew you were sheer grace and mercy, not easily angered, rich in love, and ready at the drop of a hat to turn your plans of punishment into a program of forgiveness!"* ³ *"So, God, if you won't kill them, kill me! I'm better off dead!"*

⁴ God said, *"What do you have to be angry about?"*

⁵ But Jonah just left. He went out of the city to the east and sat down in a sulk. He put together a makeshift shelter of leafy branches and sat there in the shade to see what would happen to the city.

⁶ God arranged for a broad-leafed tree to spring up. It grew over Jonah to cool him off and get him out of his angry sulk.

Jonah was pleased and enjoyed the shade. Life was looking up.

⁷⁻⁸ But then God sent a worm. By dawn of the next day, the worm had bored into the shade tree and it withered away. The sun came up and God sent a hot, blistering wind from the east. The sun beat down on Jonah's head and he started to faint. He prayed to die: *"I'm better off dead!"*⁹ Then God said to Jonah, "What right do you have to get angry about this shade tree?" Jonah said, *"Plenty of right. It's made me angry enough to die!"*

¹⁰⁻¹¹ God said, *"What's this? How is it that you can change your feelings from pleasure to anger overnight about a mere shade tree that you did nothing to get? You neither planted nor watered it. It grew up one night and died the next night. So, why can't I likewise change what I feel about Nineveh from anger to pleasure, this big city of more than 120,000 childlike people who don't yet know right from wrong, to say nothing of all the innocent animals?"*

Message: Sunday School Stories: Jonah Part 4

Opportunity to Give

***Closing Song**

***Go Ye, Go Ye Into the World* FWS #2239**

Words & Music: Natalie Sleeth; ©1979 Choristers Guild



OCCUMC Staff:

Ministers	All Who Hear the Message
Appointed Clergy	Rev. Heidi L
Altar Choir Director	Shelly S
Choir Accompanist	Lindsay G
Media & Technology	Devin W
Nursery Coordinator	Cheryl C-R
Nursery Care Support	Heather P
Office Administrator	Jane L
Organist	Todd A
Preschool Director	Stephanie P

Thanks for Assisting in Worship:

Connection Center	Carrol F
Counters	Bonnie C & Cherie S
Greeter	Patti W
Online Worship Host	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Usher	Clinton P
Worship Leader	Michelle P

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Mission Statement: *Oak Creek Community United Methodist Church is a Christian fellowship whose mission is to: worship God, love and serve all people, grow in faith, and invite others to become disciples of Jesus Christ.*