

## **ORDER OF WORSHIP – Sunday, January 24, 2021 – EPIPHANY 3B**

### **PRELUDE “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”**

<https://vimeo.com/414454099>

### **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY Alla Kuznetsov! – January 30

<https://vimeo.com/1658836>

The annual meeting of the congregation will be held via ZOOM meeting next Sunday, January 31 at 11:00 a.m. Please plan on attending to ensure a quorum. A link to the meeting is provided at the end of this document. A ZOOM meeting invitation will also be emailed later in the week.

### **CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>**

The Word of the Lord came,

**hope for all people cradled in his arms.**

The Word of the Lord comes,

**calling us out of our comfort zones, to go where grace is needed most.**

The Word of the Lord will come,

**gathering all the outsiders and insiders into one community of the kingdom.**

### **HYMN “Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven”**

<https://vimeo.com/400375220>

**Praise, my soul, the King of heaven; To His feet thy tribute bring;  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, Evermore His praises sing:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King.**

**Praise Him for His grace and favor To His people in distress;  
Praise Him still the same as ever, Slow to chide, and swift to bless.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious in His faithfulness.**

**Father-like He tends and spares us; Well our feeble frame He knows;  
In His hands He gently bears us, Rescues us from all our foes.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Widely yet His mercy flows.**

**Angels, help us to adore Him: Ye behold Him face to face;  
Sun and moon, bow down before Him, Dwellers in all time and space.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace.**

### **CALL TO CONFESSION**<sup>1</sup>

Now is the appointed time. Pour out your hearts to God, bringing those harmful words you spoke, the chances to help you turned your backs on, and the foolish choices of your lives. Offer them to the One who longs to hear us, trusting that God will forgive us.

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**<sup>1</sup>

**Our comfortable lives convince us we do not need to follow Jesus, Steadfast God. Our work provides for our wants, so we have no need for your grace. Our friends are found through social media, so we do not need your community. Our fear of the beliefs and cultures of others makes us sure we do not need to share your grace with them.**

**Forgive us for dragging our feet as Jesus' disciples, Compassionate God. May we get up from our comfort zones and step out in faith. May we go to all the uncomfortable places to bring hope. May we proclaim with our lips, but especially with our lives, that the kingdom of love is near, brought by Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

*Silence is kept.*

### **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**<sup>1</sup>

Now, after we confess, we hear the good news proclaimed: God hears our words, God sees our changed hearts, God's steadfast love is poured out upon us!  
**Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.**

**\*GRATEFUL RESPONSE "Gloria Patri"**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QUBxpypSblw>

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**<sup>2</sup>

**Speak to us your word, O God, that we may hear Jesus' call to be his disciples. Amen.**

## **SCRIPTURE**

### **Jonah 3:1-10**

The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, "Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." So 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. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"

And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. Then 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. Human 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. Who knows? God may relent and change his mind; he may turn from his fierce anger, so that we do not perish." When 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.

### **Mark 1:14-20**

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news." As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

**SERMON** "Oh, Jonah He Lived in a Whale"

Father Michael Renninger, Pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Richmond, Virginia, preaches a sermon from Jonah 3:1-5 and 10 called, "Oh, Jonah He Lived in a Whale." But he did so much more than that. He preached repentance to the Ninevites, the enemies of Israel. Apparently, God wanted the people of Ninevah to change their ways and experience his forgiveness. What does God want for your enemies?

<https://vimeo.com/249726156>

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *from A Brief Statement of Faith of the PC(USA)*

**We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.**

**Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:**

**preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,  
teaching by word and deed and blessing children,  
healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,  
eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,  
and calling for all to repent and believe the gospel.**

**Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,**

**Jesus was crucified,**

**suffering the depths of human pain  
and giving his life for the sins of the world.**

**God raised this Jesus from the dead,**

**vindicating his sinless life,  
breaking the power of sin and evil,  
delivering us from death to eternal life.**

**With believers in every time and place,**

**we rejoice that nothing in life or in death  
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.**

**Alleluia. Amen.**

**HYMN** “Be Thou My Vision”

<https://vimeo.com/29694484>

**Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art—  
Thou my best thought by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.**

**Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my True Word;  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me Lord;  
Thou my great Father and I Thy true son,  
Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one.**

**Riches I heed not, nor man’s empty praise,  
Thou mine Inheritance, now and always:  
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,  
High King of heaven, my Treasure Thou art.**

**High King of heaven, my victory won,  
May I reach Heaven’s joys, O bright Heav’n’s sun,  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of All.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** <sup>2</sup>

**JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY**

Prayers for Pat Plassche and Ellen Connor as they grieve Darwin Plassche’s return home to the everlasting arms of Jesus on this past Wednesday morning.

Lord, enfold them in your healing arms and grant them your peace.

Prayers for others known to our congregation to continue to grieve the loss of loved ones:  
Vera Forster and Jennifer Wilson.

Prayers for those known to us who face continuing health challenges:  
Barb, Sarah, Linda, Carol, Rita, Judy.

Continued prayers of for those who are waiting expectantly for the gift of new life in infants soon to be born in the months ahead.

God of new visions, we pray for people highly placed in power, that they may focus their eyes on you. And we pray for the lowly victims of power, that they may also focus their eyes on you.

We pray for those who bless with their lips but curse with their mouths, including ourselves. We pray for those who are ill and those facing the end of life. Give them the gift of prayer, that they may pour out their hearts to you.

We pray for the church and its leaders, that we may hear and respond to your call to become fishers of people.

Rock of our salvation, through Christ and your Holy Spirit bring us into the new world that you are shaping even as this world is passing away.

### **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 sins as we forgive those who sin 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.

Amen.

### **HYMN "Eternal God, Whose Power Upholds"**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YXE7YDehhDM>

**Eternal God, whose power upholds Both flower and flaming star,  
To whom there is no here nor there, No time, no near nor far,  
No alien race, no foreign shore, No child unsought, unknown.  
O send us forth, Your prophets true, To make all lands Your own!**

**O God of truth, whom science seeks And reverent souls adore,  
Illumine every earnest mind Of every clime and shore:  
Dispel the gloom of error's night, Of ignorance and fear,  
Until true wisdom from above Shall make life's pathway clear.**

**O God of beauty, oft revealed In dreams of human art,  
In speech that flows to melody, In holiness of heart:  
Teach us to ban all ugliness And all disharmony,  
Till all shall know the loveliness Of lives made fair and free!**

**O God of righteousness and grace, Seen in the Christ, Your Son,  
Whose life and death reveal Your face, By whom Your will was done:  
Help us to spread Your gracious reign Till greed and hate shall cease,  
And kindness dwell in human hearts, And all the earth find peace!**

**CHARGE & BENEDICTION** (based on 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24)

Friends, as you go from here, take with you the good news that the kingdom of God has drawn near. Believe that good news and live into it.

And by the power of God's Spirit at work within us, Stand in solidarity with those who suffer,  
Comfort all who grieve, And let everything we do and say be in love.

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The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
The love of God,  
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
Be with you now and abide with you always. Amen.

**POSTLUDE** "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

<https://vimeo.com/413142024>

<sup>2</sup> *Feasting on the Word, WORSHIP COMPANION, Liturgies for Year B, Volume 1*, edited by Kimberly Bracken Long, Westminster John Knox Press, Louisville KY.

<sup>1</sup><https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com>; Thom M. Shuman

**MORNING PRAYER** <sup>2</sup>

**Loving God, no matter what I am facing today—mourning or gladness, buying or selling—  
help me to focus on you through it all Then bring me home safely to you. Amen.**

**EVENING PRAYER** <sup>2</sup>

**Loving God, thank you for the assurance that I live forgiven and loved by you. I need your  
grace and want to share your grace with others. As I face this night, help me to pour out my  
heart to you and then rest in peace. Amen.**

Marie Hanselman is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Annual Congregational Meeting

Time: Jan 31, 2021 11:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85150603721?pwd=ZlI4VzE3QnFoVjBHa0tqNE1lc2hkQT09>

Meeting ID: 851 5060 3721

Passcode: 893544

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