

SERMON: “Prophet Jonah As a Model for US in Lent” Pastor Clarissa

~INVITATION TO SHARING OUR GIFTS, TITHES, & OURSELVES~

L: As we prepare our hearts for the offering, let us do so with gratitude for our blessings and the knowledge that all we have, and all that we are, belong to God.

DOXOLOGY: “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” UMH 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***OFFERTORY PRAYER: (Unison)**
Generous God, you have blessed us beyond measure. We pray that you will pour out your favor, not only on the monetary gifts we’ve given, but upon our very lives offered to you in a spirit of gratitude. Let our lives be focused on using our tangible gifts and our living witness to share and strengthen the faith of many. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN:** “Grace Alone” TFWS 2162

~ GOING OUT INTO THE WORLD/BENEDICTION~

***L:** Let us depart in peace, and in love and charity with our neighbors. May we be joined together in the common goal of service to our God and our Country. Let us drive safely and carefully to our homes, and may God’s blessing be with us all.

***Pastor:** Let us rejoice: God so loves the world! May God your Maker send you back into the world with creative energies refreshed. May Christ the Light illuminate your darkest moments. And may the Holy Spirit of steadfast love guide you until we worship together again. This day and forevermore.

***POSTLUDE:** “Holy, Holy, Holy Lord” arr. by Gary Alan Smith

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The bulletins are given by Don & Joyce Walters in celebration of their Great-Grandson, Hudson Jacob Vollmer’s, baptism which will be held later today.



5th AVE. UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

323 South 5th Avenue ~ West Bend WI 53095

First Sunday In Lent ~ February 26, 2023



Jonah...for Lent?
It sounds fishy,
but it’s a natural
fit. When the
people asked
Jesus for a
sign, he said, “I
will give you only
the sign of
Jonah.”

After three days
in the belly of
the earth, Jesus
rose with the
Good News of
God’s

extravagant grace for the people of the world.

This Lenten series will explore the meaning of “the sign of Jonah” as we follow the Hebrew prophet Jonah on his journey and see how it parallels the journey of Jesus to the cross.

What does this old story reveal about our hearts, our relationships, our passions, and our world view? How does this story connect to your Lenten journey story?

Come. Together we will journey through the story of Jonah ... and find ourselves in it!

Debra Matthies, Liturgist
Michelle Harrington, Singer
Deanna Gibeau, Organist
Rev. Clarissa Martinelli, Senior Pastor

JOIN US IN PERSON OR ONLINE

Sundays, 9:30 A.M.

WELCOME TO FIFTH AVE. UMC

Whether you're just beginning to explore your faith or have been following Christ for years, you and your whole family can belong at Fifth Ave. UMC

*Note: L: denotes worship "Leader" ~ P: denotes "People"

~GATHERING GOD'S PEOPLE~

HANDBELL PRELUDE: "Brightest and Best" by Osman
Kathy Schneider, Director

~WELCOME~

GREETING:

Pastor: For Lent, we will journey into the wild, wonderful world of the prophet Jonah. This prophet, arguably one of the worst prophets of the Bible, was used mightily by God despite his failings. Come see how God can use anything—great beasts of the sea, worms, reluctant believers, and especially the power of story—to show us God's abundant love and grace.

Pastor Clarissa: 847-721-1826; Ms. Ellen Johnson: 262-339-7673;
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~COME, LET US WORSHIP TOGETHER~

CENTERING MUSIC: "Holy Ground" by Geron Davis

L: Come disciples, we are not mere spectators of the road to Calvary. As followers of Christ, we journey toward the cross with Jesus. Ash Wednesday sends us off on our Lenten journey clothed with confession, repentance, and ashes to notice and join Jesus and our fellow travelers on the road to the cross. The season of Lent calls Christians to embrace their faith journey by reflecting upon and deepening their relationship with God and by acting upon their Christian beliefs.

L: Although, often considered a time for giving up something as a way of symbolizing Jesus' sacrifice and his struggle in the wilderness, the forty days of Lent also offer an opportunity for taking up. During this season, we are invited to thoughtfully take up the gifts of faith—worship, study, prayer, and service—in preparation for Holy Week and Christ's journey to the cross. To make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now bow our heads before our Creator and Redeemer.

Pastor: O God, who desire not the death of sinners, but their conversion, mercifully hear our prayers and, in your kindness, be pleased to bless these ashes and that your servants who are marked with these ashes, acknowledge we are but ashes and shall return to dust, may, through a steadfast observance of Lent, gain pardon for sins and newness of life after the likeness of your Risen Son. Who live.

People: Amen.

*IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.

*CALL TO WORSHIP: (Responsively)

L: Let all God's people come—

P: We will lift our voices to the Lord.

L: God says, "I will teach you the way you should go."

P: So, we will listen and follow God's way.

* OPENING PRAYER: (Unison)

Heavenly Father, thank you for being a God who answers when we cry out to you. But like Jonah, too often we wait until we hit rock bottom before we call out to you. Lord, draw us close to you and give us a desire to speak with you in good times and in bad. Help us to have a more meaningful prayer life. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE: (responsively)

L: Do not be afraid. God is with you! That is Good News. You do not have to go through life alone, wondering if anyone cares about you or knows your heart. God knows and God loves you. Rejoice for so it is, has always been, and will continue to be. God's love for you is eternal. And you are forgiven.

P: Amen.

***HYMN:** "Have Thine Own Way, Lord!"

UMH 382

~WE PROCLAIM~...in unison

* Jonah 1:4-6 ~ **The Lord sent a violent wind over the sea. The storm was so powerful that the ship was in danger of breaking up. The sailors were afraid, and they cried to their gods for help. They began to throw the cargo overboard to lighten the ship's load.**

Now, Jonah had gone below deck and was lying there sound asleep. The captain of the ship went to him and asked, "How can you sleep? Get up, and pray to your God. Maybe he will notice us, and we won't die."

L: The Gospel of the Lord. **P: Praise to you, Lord Christ.**