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

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)**

Almighty and restoring God, we have been living through some difficult days, as churches and as individuals. We experience days when we rise, wondering if we will make it through one more day, whether the church will survive for another generation; and we feel like those dry bones in the valley. As we offer our tithes and offerings, help us to hear the word of hope the prophet shares, not just with our ears but with our hearts. May it call us back to life and service, out of the graves of despair in which we have buried ourselves. In Christ’s holy name. Amen

***CLOSING HYMN:** “Cry of My Heart” TFWS 2165

~LITANY OF SENDING /BENEDICTION~

L: Our Lenten journey will soon be ended, where will we go, and what will we do?

P: We will go out to be God’s people in the world.

L: May grace, peace, hope, love, and joy forever accompany you. **Amen.**

Pastor: God of new realities close at hand, open our ears to hear your call. Give us the insight to know that it is you who calls us. Grant us the courage to go where you send us as we journey with the risen Christ. Help us hear afresh the Good News: power and steadfast love arise from you, our Rock and our Salvation.

***CONGREGATIONAL CLOSING** “Rule of Life” W&S 3117

***POSTLUDE:** “Praise His Name” M. Joncas



**5th AVE. UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**

323 South 5th Avenue ~ West Bend WI 53095

Fifth Sunday In Lent ~ March 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!

Sue Fowell, Liturgist
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~

ORGAN PRELUDE:	"Lord, Come and Save Us" Deanna Gibeau, Organist	Michael Joncas
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~WELCOME~

GREETING:

Pastor: Welcome. The little book of Jonah in the Bible has intrigued people for almost 2,800 years. Many can't help but see it as just another big fish story. But in reality, it is a big God story. It is the true story of our gracious God, who relentlessly loves and pursues the lost and desires that they be added to God's Kingdom. Do we feel the same? Come. All are welcome!

Pastor Clarissa: 847-721-1826; Ms. Ellen Johnson: 262-339-7673;
Email – rev.cmartinelli6@mail.com

~COME, LET US WORSHIP TOGETHER~

CENTERING MUSIC:	"I Have Loved You"	M. Joncas
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*CALL TO WORSHIP: (Responsively)

L: I want to walk as a child of the light; I want to follow Jesus.

P: God of abundant grace, we admit that we are reluctant to admit that Your love extends even to those we deem unworthy. For we know that God is merciful and compassionate, full of mercy and steadfast love.

L: God sent the stars to give light to the world, The Light of my life is Jesus.

P: God of extravagant grace, let us follow the ways of Jesus, offering Your grace and love, even when it is difficult. For we know that God is merciful and compassionate, full of mercy and steadfast love.

L: In him there is no darkness at all, the night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God

P: God of amazing grace, You are the light of this world. Let us be Your people of love and mercy in a world too full of darkness. For we know that God is merciful and compassionate, full of mercy and steadfast love. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus. Amen.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (in unison)

Father, we thank you that you are a God who provides second chances. You called us to go and we ran. We ran as far from your presence as possible. You pursued us in our abandonment of your call. Like Jonah, we have often rejected your mission of mercy for others and for ourselves. Like Jonah, we would have preferred that you squash those we dislike and simply leave us out of your plans for salvation. But you have not. You have relentlessly pursued us in our rebellion, imploring us again and again to turn to you and to embrace your Gospel of grace for others and for ourselves. Today, we return to you. We ask that you would forgive us for our stubborn hearts. May we today, relish the second chance, the opportunity for repentance, revival, and renewal. May we, today, like those of Nineveh to whom you poured out your mercy, present ourselves humbly and gratefully before you. Amen.

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

L: Loving Father, thank You that You are indeed full of compassion and mercy, for You stooped down to save us when we were dead in our sins and brought us into Your family. May our lives be a true reflection of Your gracious character. In the name of Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God. **Amen.**

*HYMN:	"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"	UMH 400
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~WE PROCLAIM~

* Jonah 4:1-3 ~ GOD'S WORD Translation (GW)

Jonah was very upset about this, and he became angry. So he prayed to the Lord, "Lord, isn't this what I said would happen when I was still in my own country? That's why I tried to run to Tarshish in the first place. I knew that you are a merciful and compassionate God, patient, and always ready to forgive and to reconsider your threats of destruction. So now, Lord, take my life. I'd rather be dead than alive."

L: The Word of God for the people of the God. **P: Praise to our Living God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC	"There Is a Higher Throne"	Keith and Kristyn Getty
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SERMON: "Prophet Jonah – When You Don't Have God's Heart" Pastor Clarissa
(continued on insert)

~PRAYERS & CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE~

L: Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

Means of Grace: Studying the Scriptures (Lectio Divina) Matthew 5:43-48

Pastor: “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor[a] and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies. Pray for those who treat you badly. If you do this, you will be children who are truly like your Father in heaven. He lets the sun rise for all people, whether they are good or bad. He sends rain to those who do right and to those who do wrong. If you love only those who love you, why should you get a reward for that? Even the tax collectors do that. And if you are nice only to your friends, you are no better than anyone else. Even the people who don’t know God are nice to their friends. But you must always act like your Father in heaven.

Directions for Lectio Divina:

- 1: Close your eyes and listen to the scripture read aloud.
- 2: Listen and read along in your bulletin, circling words and phrases that stand out to you.
- 3: Listen and read along in your bulletin, considering what God might be communicating to you through this scripture. Is God inviting you to act or change? Be open to what you might be led to.

Now as those called and empowered by God let us join with Christ in prayer:

All: 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, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

(continued on back of bulletin)