

First United Methodist Church of Elgin

January 24, 2021

Prelude

Dr. Mindy Pugh

“Praise Him With the Sound of the Trumpet”

C. Simone

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Felicia LaBoy

Announcements

Cindy Palm, Lay Servant

Call to Worship

Cindy Palm, Lay Servant

Did you hear the good news?

God is our refuge and our strength.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

Do you trust the good news?

Do you have the courage to leave your former lives behind?

Pour out your hearts before God.

Put your trust in the Lord.

Opening Hymn

Eric Fox, Kara Fox, Laura Johnson

“Covenant Prayer”

Worship and Song #3115

Prayer

Cindy Palm, Lay Servant

Mighty God, how we long to set aside the advice of others and put our trust firmly in you. How we yearn for the faithfulness of James and John, who immediately left their boats to follow Jesus. We know our fearful hearts, O God. We know how far we are from being able to trust, especially with our very lives. We hope to one day have their devotion, even as we cannot find the nerve to leave familiar paths behind. Renew us, Holy One, and bless us with your steadfast love, that we might truly live as people who have seen your kingdom draw near. We pray this in the name of your Son Jesus, who taught us to pray saying...

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

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Offertory

Laura Johnson

“Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine”

Knapp/arr. Cutter

Ways to Give:

Mail your tithes and offerings to:
First UMC Elgin
216 E. Highland Ave.
Elgin IL 60120

Give Online:
Visit the Online Giving page on the First
UMC Elgin website @ fumcelgin.org/give
or visit paypal.me/fumcelgin

Scripture Reading

Cindy Palm, Lay Servant

1 Corinthians 7:14-31 (MSG)

¹⁴The unbelieving husband shares to an extent in the holiness of his wife, and the unbelieving wife is likewise touched by the holiness of her husband. Otherwise, your children would be left out; as it is, they also are included in the spiritual purposes of God.

¹⁵⁻¹⁶On the other hand, if the unbelieving spouse walks out, you've got to let him or her go. You'd ont have to hold on desperately. God has called us to make the best of it, as peacefully as we can. You never know, wife: The way you handle this might bring your husband not only back to you but to God. You never know, husband: The way you handle this might bring your wife not only back to you but to God.

¹⁷And don't be wishing you were someplace else or with someone else. Where you are right now is God's place for you. Live and obey and love and believe right there. God, not your marital statues, defines your life. Don't think I'm being harder on you than on the others. I give this same counsel in all the churches.

¹⁸⁻¹⁹Were you Jewish at the time God called you? Don't try to remove the evidence. Were you non-Jewish at the time of your call? Don't become a Jew. Being Jewish isn't the point. The really important thing is obeying God's call, following his commands.

²⁰⁻²²Stay where you were when God called your name. Were you a slave? Slavery is no roadblock to obeying and believing. I don't mean you're stuck and can't leave. If you have a chance at freedom, go ahead and take it. I'm simply trying to point out that under your new Master you're going to experience a marvelous freedom you would never have dreamed of. On the other hand, if you were free when Christ called you, you'll experience a delightful “enslavement to God” you would never have dreamed of.

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Scripture Reading continued

Cindy Palm, Lay Servant

1 Corinthians 7:14-31 (MSG)

²³⁻²⁴All of you, slave and free both, were once held hostage in a sinful society. Then a huge sum was paid out for your ransom. So please don't, out of old habit, slip back into being or doing what everyone else tells you. Friends, stay where you were called to be. God is there. Hold the high ground with him at your side.

²⁵⁻²⁸The Master did not give explicit direction regarding virgins, but as one much experienced in the mercy of the Master and loyal to him all the way, you can trust my counsel. Because of the current pressures on us from all sides, I think it would probably be best to stay just as you are. Are you married? Stay married. Are you unmarried? Don't get married. But there's certainly no sin in getting married, whether you're a virgin or not. All I am saying is that when you marry, you take on additional stress in an already stressful time, and I want to spare you if possible.

²⁹⁻³¹I do want to point out, friends, that time is of the essence. There is no time to waste, so don't complicate your lives unnecessarily. Keep it simple—in marriage, grief, joy, whatever. Even in ordinary things—your daily routines of shopping, and so on. Deal as sparingly as possible with the things the world thrusts on you. This world as you see it is fading away.

Joys & Concerns/Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Dr. Felicia LaBoy

Meditation

Dr. Mindy Pugh

“A Joyous Organ Verse”

E. Batiste

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Felicia LaBoy

Trust & Respond

Jonah 3:1-10 (NIV)

³ Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time: ²“Go to the great city Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you.”

³Jonah obeyed the word of the Lord and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city, it took three days to go through it. ⁴Jonah began by going a day's journey into the city, proclaiming, “Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown.” ⁵The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

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Sermon continued

Rev. Dr. Felicia LaBoy

Trust & Respond
Jonah 3:1-10 (NIV)

⁶When Jonah's warning reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. ⁷This is the proclamation he issued in Nineveh:

"By the decree of the king and his nobles:

Do not let people or animals, herds or flocks, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. ⁸But let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. ⁹Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish."

¹⁰When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

Closing Hymn

Eric Fox, Kara Fox, Laura Johnson

"Only Trust Him"

United Methodist Hymnal #337

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Felicia LaBoy

Response

Eric Fox, Kara Fox, Laura Johnson

"As We Go"

Worship & Song #3183

Postlude

Dr. Mindy Pugh

"Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones"

M. Martin



Joys and Concerns can be submitted via the [First UMC Elgin website](http://FirstUMCElgin.org) by visiting fumcelgin.org/fumc_prayers. Your prayer requests will be shared with the congregation via email and during the Sunday morning worship service with your permission.

Announcements

01.24.2021

Radio Sponsorship

Dates are still available to sponsor the First UMC Elgin broadcast on WRMN 1410AM/96.7FM from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm. Weekly sponsorship is \$100.00. Sign-up and make payments online @ fumcelgin.org

Joys and Concerns

Joys and Concerns can be submitted via the First UMC Elgin website by visiting fumcelgin.org or sending an email to Amy in the church office. Your prayer requests will be shared with the congregation via email and during the Sunday morning worship service.