

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

OPENING PRAYER

The words of the Psalms describe you, O God, as hope, as salvation, as shelter. We who hear these healing words are invited to put all our confidence in you and to pour out our hearts to you, knowing that you hear. Hear us now, O God, as we gather to worship and to praise you. Amen

VOLUNTARY

Let All Things Now Living
Melody Davis

OPENING HYMN 65 *Guide Me, O Though Great Jehovah*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Our lives tend to follow the same pattern: get up, go to work or school or the gym, come home, go to sleep. Or, in our day and age, get up and stay home. We can fall into the same routine when it comes to our faith life, doing the same thing over and over, afraid to venture with God into the unknown. But God calls to us, to leave such lives behind, as we follow Jesus into forgiveness and new life. Let us pray together saying,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Forgiving God we can spend so much time waiting for the perfect moment, that we might miss the chance to help another. We may worry so much about saying the right thing, that we say nothing to encourage a person who needs such words. We may be so wrapped up in dealing with the stresses of life, that we have no time to deal with your hopes and dreams for us. Forgive us, God of second chances. By your grace, we can hear your words of compassion and forgiveness; by your mercy, we can place our feet back on the path of discipleship; by your love, we are welcomed as your children by our Savior, Jesus Christ. For your forgiveness, mercy, love and grace, our thanksgiving. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

If it can happen in Ninevah, repentance and forgiveness can happen in us; if God can call a stubborn person like Jonah, God can call us to lives of faithful discipleship. May we lay aside all our fears and doubts, all our worries and resistance, so we can follow Jesus, trusting always in the One who forgives us, in this moment, and all the moments to come. Thanks be to God. Amen.

RESPONSE 582 *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shine on Me*

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Living God, help us so to hear your Word that we may truly understand; that, understanding, we may believe; and believing, we may follow your way in all faithfulness, seeking your honor and glory in all that we do. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING (*Pew Bible*, page 860)

Jonah 3: 1-5, 10

The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying,²“Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.”³So 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.⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!”⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. 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.

ANTHEM

Two Fishermen

Suzann Toolan

Katie Karlen, Michele Pappas and Bob Barraza (guitar)

NEW TESTAMENT READING (*Pew Bible*, page 35)

Mark 1: 14-20

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God,¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen.¹⁷And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.”¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him.¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets.²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

HYMN (*LUYH 39*) *Jesus, Name Above All Names*

SERMON

Hearing With the Heart

Sherry Holloman

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Every day we journey on this earth is a day in which we make choices: left or right, up or down, in or out, yes or no? Some choices are simple, and some are very complex, but one choice informs all the others: Who will be our God? Who will we trust to see us through this journey?

Who has been with us from before the beginning, bringing us into existence? Who has loved us and blessed us and sent us on our way? Who has pointed us toward the path and posted the signs we need to find our way? Who has been at our side when the road has been smooth and gently curving? Who has kept with us through hairpin turns and construction zones and potholes and detours? Who will celebrate with us when we complete our course and seek the comfort of eternity?

Only One. The One and Only. Holy One. The One and Holy.

Will we choose this day to stay faithful to the One who is faithful to us? Will we choose this day to place our whole trust in the One who is trustworthy? Will we choose this day to commit our talents and your resources to the One who first endowed them? Will we choose this day to love the One who loved us first?

In affirming our faith, God, we ask you to enlarge our enlarge and help us always to recognize your presence and your blessings throughout our journey. Keep us in your care. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Creator of all, we come to you knowing that there are many distractions in our lives and in our world that draw us away from you, but we desire to know You more fully, more deeply. Guide us into ways of living that deepen our spirits, that draw us closer, and that move us to work for justice and peace. Help us to quiet our minds from the worries we carry and lift up our hearts when the world gets us down. Guide us back to the rhythm of life with You when the fast pace of the world throws us off. In the name of Christ, our companion on this journey of faith, we pray. **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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

For the comfort and strength we find in our God who is our rock, our fortress, our salvation, may we offer our tithes and offerings so others may find refuge in our Lord, also.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Come Follow Me
Sanctuary Choir

John Carter

RESPONSE 605 *Praise to God the Father*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Help us to give of ourselves wholeheartedly and serve you by witnessing to others of your love, through our lives and our words. Use our gifts for your good purposes. Amen.

GOING INTO THE WORLD WITH GOD'S WORD

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND BLESSING

Go now, follow where Christ calls you and proclaim the message God gives you. Wait in hope for God. Avoid become bound up in the business of the world, but live in readiness for the inbreaking of the Kingdom.

And may God be your haven and your glory;
may Christ Jesus give you courage for his mission;
and may the Spirit embrace your soul in God's silence.
We go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Amen

CLOSING HYMN 720 *Jesus Calls Us*