
St. Paul's Episcopal Church Piney Parish



The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Faces of Our Faith: Jonah

July 19, 2020

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Officiant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
All **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

PRAYER FOR PURITY

Officiant Let us pray.
All **Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you
and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

The Gloria

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.	Lord Jesus, only Son of the Father Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, receive our prayers.	For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord; you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.
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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Officiant The Lord be with you.
All **And also with you.**
Officiant Let us pray.
Holy Wisdom, in your loving kindness you created and restored us when we were lost:
inspire us with your truth, that we may love you with our whole minds and run to you with
open hearts, through Christ our Savior.
Amen.

YOUNG DISCIPLES MOMENT

FIRST LESSON

Jonah 3:10-4:11

Paula Truitte

The story of Jonah is a story about a reluctant prophet tasked with calling the Ninevites to repent. Jonah, however, would rather do anything than see God forgive them.

God saw what they were doing—that they had ceased their evil behavior. So God stopped planning to destroy them, and he didn't do it.

But Jonah thought this was utterly wrong, and he became angry. He prayed to the LORD, "Come on, LORD! Wasn't this precisely my point when I was back in my own land? This is why I fled to Tarshish earlier! I know that you are a merciful and compassionate God, very patient, full of faithful love, and willing not to destroy. At this point, LORD, you may as well take my life from me, because it would be better for me to die than to live."

The LORD responded, "Is your anger a good thing?" But Jonah went out from the city and sat down east of the city. There he made himself a hut and sat under it, in the shade, to see what would happen to the city.

Then the LORD God provided a shrub, and it grew up over Jonah, providing shade for his head and saving him from his misery. Jonah was very happy about the shrub. But God provided a worm the next day at

dawn, and it attacked the shrub so that it died. Then as the sun rose God provided a dry east wind, and the sun beat down on Jonah's head so that he became faint. He begged that he might die, saying, "It's better for me to die than to live."

God said to Jonah, "Is your anger about the shrub a good thing?"

Jonah said, "Yes, my anger is good—even to the point of death!"

But the LORD said, "You 'pitied' the shrub, for which you didn't work and which you didn't raise; it grew in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹Yet for my part, can't I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than one hundred twenty thousand people who can't tell their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM *Psalm 103:1-5*

Bless the Holy One, O my soul, *
and all that is within me, bless God's holy Name.

Bless the Holy One, O my soul, *
and forget not all the gifts of God.

O God, you forgive all our sins *
and heal all our infirmities;

You redeem our life from the grave *
and crown us with mercy and loving-kindness;

You satisfy us with good things, *
and our youth is renewed like an eagle's.

THE GOSPEL *Mark 1:14-15*

This is the story of Jesus calling ordinary people to change their hearts and lives and to follow him.

Officiant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

All **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

After John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee announcing God's good news, saying, "Now is the time! Here comes God's kingdom! Change your hearts and lives, and trust this good news!"

Officiant The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Maria Kane

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Meg Monroe

Merciful God, enliven the Church for its mission
that we may be salt of the earth and light to the world.

Breathe fresh life into your people.

Give us power to reveal Christ in word and action.

We pray for the world:

(Please add your intercessions/thanksgivings for the world.)

Creator of all, lead us and every people into ways of justice and peace.

That we may respect one another in freedom and truth.

Awaken in us a sense of wonder for the earth and all that is in it.

Teach us to care creatively for its resources.

We pray for the community:

(Please add your intercessions/thanksgivings for the community.)

God of truth, inspire with your wisdom those whose decisions affect the lives of others
that all may act with integrity and courage.

Give grace to all whose lives are linked with ours.

May we serve Christ in one another, and love as he loves us.

We pray for those in need:

(Please add your intercessions/thanksgivings for those who struggling in body, soul, or spirit.)

God of hope, comfort and restore all who suffer in body, mind or spirit.

May they know the power of your healing love.

Make us willing agents of your compassion.

Strengthen us as we share in making people whole.

We remember those who have died and those who mourn:

(Please add your intercessions/thanksgivings for those who have died and those who grieve.)

We remember with thanksgiving those who have died in the faith of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone.

Merciful One, into your hands we commend them.

Give comfort to those who mourn.

Bring them peace in their time of loss.

We praise you for Jonah, and all your saints who have entered your eternal glory.

May their example inspire and encourage us.

We pray for ourselves, friends, and neighbors:

(Please add your intercessions for the concerns of your heart.)

Lord, you have called us to serve you.

Grant that we may walk in your presence: your love in our hearts, your truth in our minds, your strength in our wills; until, at the end of our journey, we know the joy of our homecoming and the welcome of your embrace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Officiant As Christ teaches us, we pray:

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN & ABSOLUTION

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

Officiant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

THE PEACE

Officiant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Officiant During this time in which we cannot gather to celebrate the great sacrament of Holy Communion, let us offer our selves, souls, and bodies to God in this prayer for spiritual communion.

All In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your church where your blessed Body and Blood are being offered, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving for creation and all the blessings of this life. I present to you my soul and body, with the earnest wish that I may ever be united to you.

I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to you, and embrace you with all the affections of our souls. Let nothing ever separate you from me. May I live in you, and may you live in me, both in this life, and in the life to come. Amen.

Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine!— O what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-
 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light!— Vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my
 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest,— i in my Sav-ior am hap-py and

vine!— Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God,— Born of His Spir-it, washed in His
 sight,— An-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove,— Ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of
 blest,— Watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove,— Filled with His good-ness, lost in His

blood. This is my sto-ry, this is my song, Prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day
 love.—
 love.—

long.— This is my sto-ry, this is my song,— Prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.—

THE BLESSING

THE DISMISSAL

Questions for Reflection

1. Tarshish, a city on the southern tip of Spain, was nearly 3,000 miles across the Mediterranean Sea from Nineveh, a city of Assyria. Jonah attempted to flee to the farthest away point known in the ancient world. Have you ever run from God or avoided something you felt God was calling you to?
2. Consider who your modern-day Ninevehs might be—people, places, situations, countries—that are tempting to deem brutal or undeserving of God’s grace.

Household Prayer: Morning

Holy One, I awake into a sense of your presence with me. From time to time today, remind me that each day is a journey into the unknown but that there is nowhere I can go where you are not with me. Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Thank you, God, for the gift of this day. You have been my comfort and help, my strength and my shield. As I drift into sleep, I praise your name and rest in the knowledge that you are always with me. Amen.

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