

THE GOSPEL IS READ

Mark 1:14-20

THE GOSPEL RESPONSE

Pastor: The Gospel of the living Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

PROCLAIMING

SERMON

“Getting Real With Each Other”

Rev. Russel W. Shuluga

RESPONDING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Our nets are full enough to share God’s bounty. Our hearts are open wide to the needs of others. Let us reach out and share what we’ve been given.

THE LORD’S OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Holy God, Steadfast Rock of all Salvation, we marvel at the strength of your compassion and your ability to offer forgiveness. We come to you, hungry to be part of the good news you are bringing forth, for we would be part of the realm you are revealing. Amen.

SENDING

BENEDICTION

As the disciples walked with Christ so long ago, walk with Christ in your hearts and spirits. Feel the power of the Holy Spirit guiding your path. Know the love of God which is poured out for you and rejoice. AMEN.

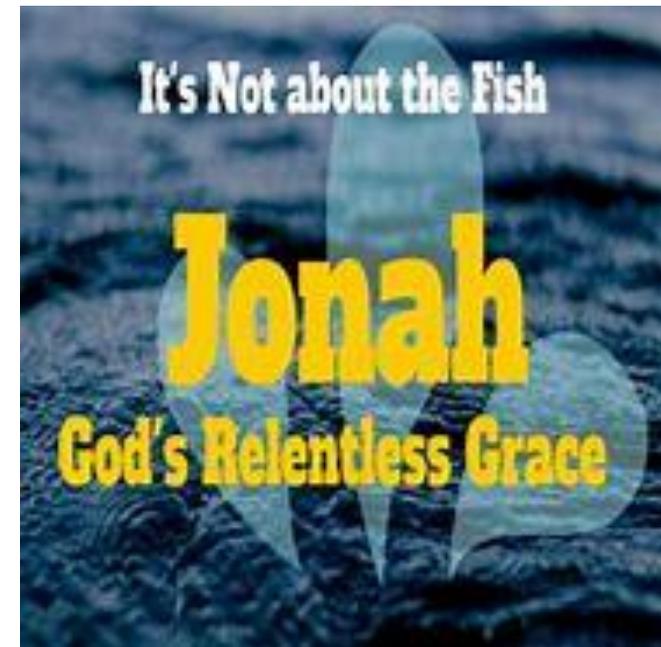
CLOSING HYMN:

“The Summons”

TFWS #2130

WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD!

Liturgist: Kim Viehland



Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church

Pastor: Reverend Russel W. Shuluga

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Welcome Visitors: We are pleased you have chosen to worship with us today. If you do not have a permanent church home, please consider joining us.

May God bless your experience in worship with us today.
We are here to serve, so please let us know how we might better serve you.

January 24, 2021
Order of Worship
3RD Sunday after the Epiphany

CENTERING

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING WORDS:

Pastor: Gather this day in silence and hope.

People: We wait for God's word for us.

Pastor: Let your hearts and spirits be open.

People: God is our strength and salvation.

Pastor: Wait patiently for the Lord.

People With willing hearts and spirits, we wait for the Lord.

PRAISING

OPENING HYMN "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

No. 110

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Where do we turn for help?

People: God is our rock. We will not be shaken!

Pastor: Where do we look for forgiveness?

People: God is our salvation. We will not be shaken!

Pastor: Where can we find protection?

People: God is our fortress. We will not be shaken!

Pastor: Trust in God, our refuge and our hope.

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor: Holy God, we thank you for your steadfast love that shelters and protects us.

People: You are our rock and our salvation.

Pastor: Loving Christ, we yearn for, yet dread, to hear your invitation: "Follow Me!"

People: You call us to risk everything to help you bring good news to the world.

Pastor: Empowering Holy Spirit, we give thanks that you fill our lives with joy.

People: Fill us now as we gather to share your presence in this time of worship. Amen.

INTROIT ""Fill My Cup Lord"

No. 641

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

CONFESSING

CALL TO CONFESSION

Jesus calls us to repent and draw near to him, to share the realm of God and the peace that passes all understanding.

GENERAL CONFESSION

We listen to the stories of the call of the disciples and find them interesting but unrealistic. When we look at our own lives, we believe that we could not leave everything to follow someone we didn't know. We have many responsibilities and ties which keep us from following. But God is persistent. God understands our confusion and doubts. And God continues to call us to be in ministry and mission in this world. It may not mean leaving everything behind, but it does mean being willing to serve wherever God calls us. That's hard. We want to place conditions on service, and usually those conditions are "if we have time", "if we have energy"; "if we can just try serving God for a little while to see how it all works out". Still God calls to each of us. Discipleship is difficult. Forgive us, patient and persistent Lord, for the very many times we turn our backs on serving you and focus on our own comforts. Forgive us when we look the other way when people are in need. Forgive us our angry attitudes and actions which hurt rather than heal. Wrap your arms around us, healing our wounds, binding us to you. Gently move us into service in your name. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Pastor: When we repent, our God relents, lifting us beyond the pain, restoring us to safety, protecting us in the refuge of eternal love. In the name of Jesus, who is the Christ, you are forgiven.

People: In the name of Christ, you are forgiven.

Pastor: Glory to God.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

"Blessed Assurance"

No. 369

HEARING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Pastor: Prepare the way of the Lord.

People: We listen for the word of God.

FIRST LESSON

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Pastor: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL LESSON

Pastor: The Lord be with you,

People: And also with you.

Pastor: A reading from the Gospel of St. Mark

People: Glory to You, O Lord.