



*The word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai:
"Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it,
because its wickedness has come up before me."
But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish. Jonah 1:1*

**Harmony United Methodist Church
January 24, 2021
*Jonah, An Unwilling Servant- At First***

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God called to Jonah to get up, go to Nineveh
and proclaim God's word.

People: But Jonah refused, until God called a second time.

Leader: God is persistent. God believes in those whom God
has called.

People: Jesus called the disciples by the lakeshore.

Leader: They left their families and jobs to follow Jesus.

People: Lord, give us the courage to follow you all of our lives.

OPENING PRAYER

Holy One, God of all Creation, you call us to be your people, to carry your vision in this time and place, to go where you send us to help welcome your amazing, good news. As we gather in the presence of the risen Christ to spread the news that your realm is near, fill us with your Holy Spirit, O God of all Creation. Fill us with your glorious Spirit, that we may share your good news with a world in need. **Amen.**

*O Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
be thou forever near me,
my Master and my friend.
I shall not fear the battle
if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if thou wilt be my guide.*

*O let me feel thee near me!
The world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me,
around me and within;
but Jesus, draw thou nearer,
and shield my soul from sin.*

*O Jesus, thou hast promised
to all who follow thee
that where thou art in glory
there shall thy servant be.
And Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow,
my Master and my Friend.*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Jessica Randall

PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor Debra

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SPECIAL MUSIC

Damon Moore

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Holy God, creator of a new reality just now coming into view, we have come today to see and touch and know your presence here among us. Be with us as we listen for your call. Help us hear afresh the good news: that power and steadfast love arise from you, our rock and our salvation. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Jonah 1:1-3

The word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai: "Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me." But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish.

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time: ²"Go to the great city of 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.

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.

GOSPEL READING

Mark 1:14-20

Jesus Announces the Good News

¹⁴ After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵ “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

Jesus Calls His First Disciples

¹⁶ As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” ¹⁸ At once they left their nets and followed him.

¹⁹ When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. ²⁰ Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

The word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Jonah, An Unwilling Servant- At First

Pastor Debra

SPECIAL MUSIC

Here I Am, Lord

Damon Moore

OFFERTORY PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Pastor Debra

We offer these gifts, O God, as a sign of our pledge, to serve you, not only in this place, but in all places. Accept and use them, and use us, as instruments of your peace; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Forth in Thy Name, O Lord

UMH 438

*Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go,
my daily labor to pursue;
thee, only thee, resolved to know
in all I think or speak or do.*

*The task thy wisdom hath assigned,
O let me cheerfully fulfill;
in all my works thy presence find,
and prove thy good and perfect will.*

*For thee delightfully employ
what e'er thy bounteous grace
hath given; and run my course
with even joy, and closely walk
with thee to heaven.*

BENEDICTION

Go now, follow where Christ calls you
and proclaim the message God gives you.
Wait in hope for God.

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.