Worship in the Home

Sunday After Epiphany





"Come...Be a Part of Peace!"

2600 Atlantic Avenue, Fernandina Beach FL 32034 904.261.6306 www.poplcweb.org

January 24, 2021

In this time of world-wide crisis, we are not able to gather for worship as the body of Christ. While we cannot be together in person, we can hear the word of God and hold each other in prayer. Use this resource as an aid for prayer in the home. As with our prayers in the gathered assembly for worship.



Set out and light a candle and you may wish to have a bowl of water as a reminder of your baptism into the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Service of the Word

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Kneel, sit or stand. Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

Devotional Music

You might now sing or read "Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult"

Or, click the following link for audio presentation –

https://youtu.be/J-8NBROOOxQ



Kyrie



Lord, have mercy: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy: Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy: Lord, have mercy.

The Prayer of the Day may be prayed.



Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**



Then the first reading for this Sunday may be read, as follows.

FIRST READING: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

¹The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²Get 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.

¹⁰When 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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: 62:5-12 May be sung or read in response to the First Reading.



⁵For God alone I | wait in silence;

truly, my hope [|] is in God.

⁶God alone is my rock and [|] my salvation,

my stronghold, so that I shall nev- | er be shaken.

⁷In God is my deliverance | and my honor;

God is my strong rock | and my refuge.

⁸Put your trust in God al-[|] ways, O people,

pour out your hearts before the one who | is our refuge.

⁹Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath;

those of low estate can- | not be trusted.

Placed on the scales together they weigh even less | than a breath.

¹⁰Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no [|] empty pride;

though wealth increase, set not your [|] heart upon it.

¹¹God has spoken once, twice | have I heard it,

that power be- | longs to God.

¹²Steadfast love belongs to [|] you, O Lord,

for you repay all according | to their deeds.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

²⁹Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, ³⁰and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**



Then the gospel reading may be read, as follows.

Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

The holy Gospel according to Mark. Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**



SERMON—Pastor Ida Iverson

"CALL AND RESPONSE"

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

This week the lessons left me with a lot of questions, and I do not know if I have answers to those questions or not. Jonah was, to say the least reluctant to go to Nineveh. The government of this people were evil and ruthless; they were not good people. So, why would God even consider saving them? I am sure that Jonah feared for his life to even enter the city, but I guess after spending time in the belly of a fish and he survived what does he have to lose? He walked a third of the way into the city and gave his eight-word sermon: *"Forty days more; and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"*

The outcome was that people listened and changed their ways and God saved them. This does not make any sense whatsoever. Why did they listen to Jonah? What was so compelling about the message that he gave that changed the heart and minds of all those people? Could it have been that he was covered with fish guts and smelled so bad that they figured that whatever he had gone through they did not want to experience it and it was much easier to put on sackcloth and turn from their evil ways?

I have no answers to those questions. Although if we read on further in the book of Jonah, we find out that Jonah was terribly upset with God. Upset with the fact that God had changed his mind and did not bring to calamity the Ninevites that Jonah felt they deserved.

Then we have Jesus in Galilee and Galilee is in region where he is calling four disciples: Simon his brother, Andrew, and also James and John, two other brothers. All four of these men shared the same vocation of being fishermen. One could say that James and John would stand to inherit a thriving fishing concern, since their father not only employed his sons, but he also had hired other men as well. Zebedee, with his sons leaving, will have to change his letterhead from "Zebedee and Sons" to "Zebedee and Company". Here is where there can be some questions as well, as we look back at our gospel last week from John, where Andrew and Peter (also known as Simon) are mentioned and how they were from Bethsaida. Now in today's lesson we have them in "Galilee" casting their nets and being called. The question that came to mind for me was where is Bethsaida in relationship to Galilee? I got out my map from the time of Jesus and discovered

that Bethsaida was a fishing village on the northern edge of the Sea of Galilee, so it is in the region of Galilee where Jesus is. My guess would be that these four fishermen came first and then the calling of Philip and Nathanael as the fifth and sixth disciples.

We need to remember that the four gospels are four eyewitnesses accounts, each telling their stories of Jesus and there are times that they match up closely and other times that you have to remember that no two people's eyewitness accounts will be identical.

So, what does all mean? We have this disgruntled Jonah sent to Nineveh to proclaim a message from God that consists of eight words, but those eight words packed a punch since the all the people changed their ways. Then we have four fishermen, who are working hard, and it seems that they are making a good living...they give it all up to follow Jesus and fish for people. Think about it, all they had to worry about before were their nets and now their lives are completely changed, and their nets do not mean the same thing at all. They no longer need them.

What lesson can we learn today from these two lessons? It has almost been a full year since Covid-19 came on the scene and changed every one of our lives in some way or another. How many events have been canceled, family gatherings, vacations, even how we shop has been changed? We think twice before saying "I don't feel like cooking, let's go out for dinner." Who would have ever dreamed that face masks would be the new fashion statement of the world? Within this congregation all the changes that we have gone through since last year we would never have dreamed that we would have to make then. We had a great schedule put together for fellowship events and we were on a roll, and it all stopped. By the grace of God, we as a congregation have continued to have the gospel...the good news proclaimed...in more than eight words...I will add. We have continued to reach out to those in need in the community. We have managed to keep the lights on and the doors open, and discovered some of what can be done with media.

We are not called as disciples out of the hostile world, but as disciples we are called to help make the hostile world a better place. A place as I reminded you two weeks ago, that in your baptism and mine we hear: "You are my beloved and with you I am well pleased."

I wish I had more the answers to the questions I have. And I know that I have a few questions saved for the Lord when we meet. One thing that I do know is that we are not in this crazy, hostile world alone and God is still at work creating, Jesus is still saving, and the Holy Spirit is still opening our eyes and our ears. Opening our eyes to see how we can make a difference and opening our ears to hear the good news that we are beloved children, and we are name claimed and called to make this crazy, hostile world a better place for all. Amen.

Hymn of The Day

You might now sing or read "I Love to Tell the Story"

Or, click the following link for audio presentation –

https://youtu.be/un9GC-LCS-c



Nicene Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. 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,

who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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.

You may remain standing, kneel or be seated Then read the prayers of intersession, as follows.

Prayers of Intercession

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

For all who share the gospel and proclaim freedom in Christ throughout the world; prophets, teachers, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders; for the church and its ministries, Let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For all God's works in creation, be with those tasked with protecting our natural resources and all that exists,

Let us pray. Have mercy, O God.

For our government and leaders, in cities and nations, for rescue professionals and all our elected officials and those who work for the well-being of the civil society; give to them hearts, minds and souls of servants to those who they have been called to help and protect,

Let us pray. Have mercy, O God.

For those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit: those who are sick and hospitalized, those struggling with mental illness, those who are hungry or homeless, all in any need. We ask you to especially guard and keep these we name before you either silently or aloud: Sandra and Darrell Tapp, Mike Parks, Gertie Scheffler, John Crowder, Zoia Foster, Donna Cormier, Kim and Ethan Cole, Clay Chaffee, Lucy Creel, all those who serve in the military, Donna and Orv Lind, Lloyd Cotner, Tammy & Greg Olive, Elmer Wessel, those dealing with the Covid-19 in any way.

We give thanks for all the prayers you have answered by the power of the Holy Spirit. Let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

We give thanks for all the prayers you have answered by the power of the Holy Spirit and for those you have called in to the ministry of healing: caregivers, hospice workers, home health aides, therapist, doctors, and nurses.

Let us pray. Have mercy, O God.

For the concerns of this congregation: those who travel, those absent from worship, those celebrating birthdays or anniversaries, especially Eileen Klein, Lill Ekwall, Ragnar Strommel and Alexandra Williams on their birthdays with week; for the people of God in this place and for others needs in our community,

Let us pray. Have mercy, O God.

For the covenant God made with us in the waters of baptism, in thanksgiving for the baptized who have died in the Lord,

Let us pray. Have mercy, O God.

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen**

Let us pray as Jesus taught us,



Lords Prayer

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, forever and ever. Amen.

Blessing

Then speak the Blessing:

The blessing of the living God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, surround and sustain you, keep you from harm, and fill you with courage. **Amen.**



Sending Hymn

"You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore"

Click the following link for audio presentation that includes the verses to sing

https://youtu.be/jkd-sw5yPjw



Dismissal

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;

help the afflicted; honor all people;

Go in peace to love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Thanks be to God.**

Readings of the Week:

Sunday After Epiphany Jonah 3:1-5, 10, 1 Corinthians 7:29-31, Mark 1:14-20

Sunday After Epiphany Deuteronomy 18:15-20, 1 Corinthians 8:1-13, Mark 1:21-28

Reflection material: Gordon Lathrop. Intercessory Prayer: Gail Ramshaw

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IN NEED OF PRAYER

We give thanks to you, O Lord, for all the prayers you have heard and answered and the peace you have given, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Osprey Village

Lloyd & Jane Cotner - Room 3106 Katherine Holmberg- Room 101

<u>Savannah Grand</u> Jo Kruer - Room 332 Mary Jordan- Memory Care Unit



At Home

Emmy Lou Sorum / Michele Pester / Clay Chaffee / Dorothy Schwager/ Ted Wessel / Lloyd Cotner/ Jo Kruer / Lucy Creel / Donna Cormier / Gertie Schreffler /

Family of Billy & Loretta Foster at their death



Lt. Tim Cassel, Coast Guard, Valdez, AK (son of Glen & Norma Beyer) Lt. J.G. Eric Strommel, Kings Bay, Subbase, GA Lt. Col. Laura Laskowski, Air Force Intelligence, stationed in Maryland at Ft. Meade (daughter of Sue Whitman)

Components of an Effective Prayer

"A"ADORATIONWorship of God, First for who He is, Second for all His benefits"C"CONFESSIONIf we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive and cleanse us from unrighteousness"T"THANKSGIVINGGratitude to GOD for His blessings"S"SUPPLICATIONExpressing our petitions to GOD for individual and specific needs and desires

Keeping Our Prayer List Up to Date ...

Call our Church Office to add friends and family to our prayer list. We often can all use as many prayers as we can get.