



The Setauket Presbyterian Church

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eighth SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Order of Worship

August 4, 2019

GATHERING MUSIC *Trumpet Tune* by Henry Purcell

RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT *Allegro Maestoso from Water Music* by G.F. Händel

The Light Enters

CALL TO WORSHIP: We Begin Our Story Herta Wulff

OPENING PRAYER

Creative Spirit, move in this place. Come upon us like the waves on the ocean. Move our hearts and minds through the story of your prophet, Jonah. Open our eyes to see your presence. Open our ears that they might hear your call upon our lives. Breathe in this place like the wind and fill the sails of this ship as we come to your word, once again. Amen.

JONAH HEARS A CALL FROM GOD: Jonah 1:1-3

¹⁻²One day long ago, God's Word came to Jonah, Amittai's son: "Up on your feet and on your way to the big city of Nineveh! Preach to them. They're in a bad way and I can't ignore it any longer."

³But Jonah got up and went the other direction to Tarshish, running away from God. He went down to the port of Joppa and found a ship headed for Tarshish. He paid the fare and went on board, joining those going to Tarshish—as far away from God as he could get.

❖ **HYMN no. 726** *Will You Come and Follow Me*

TRUTH and CONSEQUENCES: Jonah 1:4-17

⁴⁻⁶But God sent a huge storm at sea, the waves towering.

The ship was about to break into pieces. The sailors were terrified. They called out in desperation to their gods. They threw everything they were carrying overboard to lighten the ship. Meanwhile, Jonah had gone down into the hold of the ship to take a nap. He was sound asleep. The captain came to him and said, “What’s this? Sleeping! Get up! Pray to your god! Maybe your god will see we’re in trouble and rescue us.”

⁷Then the sailors said to one another, “Let’s get to the bottom of this. Let’s draw straws to identify the culprit on this ship who’s responsible for this disaster.” So they drew straws. Jonah got the short straw.

⁸Then they grilled him: “Confess. Why this disaster? What is your work? Where do you come from? What country? What family?”

⁹He told them, “I’m a Hebrew. I worship God, the God of heaven who made sea and land.”

¹⁰At that, the men were frightened, really frightened, and said, “What on earth have you done!” As Jonah talked, the sailors realized that he was running away from God.

¹¹They said to him, “What are we going to do with you—to get rid of this storm?” By this time the sea was wild, totally out of control.

¹²Jonah said, “Throw me overboard, into the sea. Then the storm will stop. It’s all my fault. I’m the cause of the storm. Get rid of me and you’ll get rid of the storm.”

¹³But no. The men tried rowing back to shore. They made no headway. The storm only got worse and worse, wild and raging.

¹⁴Then they prayed to God, “O God! Don’t let us drown because of this man’s life, and don’t blame us for his death. You are God. Do what you think is best.”

¹⁵They took Jonah and threw him overboard. Immediately the sea was quieted down.

¹⁶The sailors were impressed, no longer terrified by the sea, but in awe of God. They worshiped God, offered a sacrifice, and made vows.

¹⁷Then God assigned a huge fish to swallow Jonah. Jonah was in the fish’s belly three days and nights.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER FOR RECONCILIATION: Jonah 2:1-9

"In trouble, deep trouble, I prayed to God.

He answered me.

From the belly of the grave I cried, 'Help!'

You heard my cry.

You threw me into ocean's depths,

into a watery grave,

With ocean waves, ocean breakers

crashing over me.

I said, 'I've been thrown away,

thrown out, out of your sight.

I'll never again lay eyes

on your Holy Temple.'

Ocean gripped me by the throat.

The ancient Abyss grabbed me and held tight.

My head was all tangled in seaweed

at the bottom of the sea where the mountains take root.

I was as far down as a body can go,

and the gates were slamming shut behind me forever—

Yet you pulled me up from that grave alive,

O God, my God!

When my life was slipping away,

I remembered God,

And my prayer got through to you,

made it all the way to your Holy Temple.

Those who worship hollow gods, god-frauds,

walk away from their only true love.

But I'm worshiping you, God,

calling out in thanksgiving!

And I'll do what I promised I'd do!

Salvation belongs to God!"

(time for silent confession) Amen.

RESPONSIVE ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE: **Jonah 2:10**

Jonah ran to the sea, as far away from the landlocked town of Ninevah as he could get, and yet even there he could not escape God's presence.

Sometimes we run, but we know there is no place that God is not with us.

Here is the good news: God's presence is, first and foremost, a presence of mercy and grace, love and compassion. After Jonah's prayer, God spoke to the fish, and it spit out Jonah onto the seashore. God forgave Jonah!

God's mercy is as wide as the sea! Thanks be to God!

✠ SUNG RESPONSE no.435 (first verse) *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea.

There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.

There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven.

There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment given.

NINEVAH LISTENS TO GOD, AND GOD RESPONDS: **Jonah 3:1-10**

¹⁻²Next, God spoke to Jonah a second time: "Up on your feet and on your way to the big city of Nineveh! Preach to them. They're in a bad way and I can't ignore it any longer."

³This time Jonah started off straight for Nineveh, obeying God's orders to the letter.

Nineveh was a big city, very big—it took three days to walk across it.

⁴Jonah entered the city, went one day's walk and preached, "In forty days Nineveh will be smashed."

⁵The people of Nineveh listened, and trusted God. They proclaimed a citywide fast and dressed in burlap to show their repentance. Everyone did it—rich and poor, famous and obscure, leaders and followers.

⁶⁻⁹When the message reached the king of Nineveh, he got up off his throne, threw down his royal robes, dressed in burlap, and sat down in the dirt. Then he issued a public proclamation throughout Nineveh, authorized by him and his leaders: "Not one drop of water, not one bite of food for man, woman, or animal, including your herds and flocks! Dress them all, both people and animals, in burlap, and send up a cry for help to God. Everyone must turn

around, turn back from an evil life and the violent ways that stain their hands. Who knows? Maybe God will turn around and change his mind about us, quit being angry with us and let us live!”

¹⁰God saw what they had done, that they had turned away from their evil lives. He *did* change his mind about them. What he said he would do to them he didn’t do.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION *O Rest In The Lord* from *Elijah* by Felix Mendelssohn

JONAH LEARNS ALL GOOD THINGS COME FROM GOD: Jonah 4:1-11

¹⁻²Jonah was furious. He lost his temper. He yelled at God, “God! I knew it— when I was back home, I knew this was going to happen! That’s why I ran off to Tarshish! I knew you were sheer grace and mercy, not easily angered, rich in love, and ready at the drop of a hat to turn your plans of punishment into a program of forgiveness!”

³“So, God, if you won’t kill them, kill *me!* I’m better off dead!”

⁴God said, “What do you have to be angry about?”

⁵But Jonah just left. He went out of the city to the east and sat down in a sulk. He put together a makeshift shelter of leafy branches and sat there in the shade to see what would happen to the city.

⁶God arranged for a broad-leafed tree to spring up. It grew over Jonah to cool him off and get him out of his angry sulk. Jonah was pleased and enjoyed the shade. Life was looking up.

⁷⁻⁸But then God sent a worm. By dawn of the next day, the worm had bored into the shade tree and it withered away. The sun came up and God sent a hot, blistering wind from the east. The sun beat down on Jonah’s head and he started to faint. He prayed to die: “I’m better off dead!”

⁹Then God said to Jonah, “What right do you have to get angry about this shade tree?”

Jonah said, “Plenty of right. It’s made me angry enough to die!”

¹⁰⁻¹¹ God said, "What's this? How is it that you can change your feelings from pleasure to anger overnight about a mere shade tree that you did nothing to get? You neither planted nor watered it. It grew up one night and died the next night. So, why can't I likewise change what I feel about Nineveh from anger to pleasure, this big city of more than 120,000 childlike people who don't yet know right from wrong, to say nothing of all the innocent animals?"

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN and A HOMILY FOR ALL AGES

✠ **HYMN no.649** *Amazing Grace*

OFFERTORY *How Great Thou Art*

✠ **DOXOLOGY**

You are invited to sing any of the following versions of the Doxology, or words that are familiar to you.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below; praise God above ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ all people here below; praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below; praise God above ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

✠ **DEDICATION OF SELF AND SUBSTANCE**

Good and loving God, we give you thanks for the many good things you have given us. For blessings both large and small. Help us to be a grateful and thoughtful people. Use these gifts we have returned to you, that they might bless our neighbors and the world around us and bring your kingdom here on earth. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise....

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

Please join in singing the communion hymns as the elements are distributed, and we will partake together after all are served.

Communion Hymns

Hymn no. 525 *Let Us Break Bread Together*

Let us break bread together on our knees;

let us break bread together on our knees.

When I fall on my knees, with

my face to the rising sun,

O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine...

Let us praise God.

Hymn no. 507 *Come to the Table of Grace*

Come to the table of grace.

Come to the table of grace.

**This is God's table; it's not
yours or mine.**

Come to the table of grace.

Come to the table of ...peace...

...love...

...hope...

...joy.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, send us out from our Lord's table to answer his summons into new life and to follow him with joy and gladness. Set our feet in his holy way, that our lives may be signs of his life, and all we do may show forth his love. Amen.

✠ **HYMN no. 100 *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout***

✠ BENEDICTION

*We say this blessing in solidarity with our sister church in
San Antonio de los Baños, Cuba*

**The benediction of the God of Sarah, Hagar and Abraham,
The benediction of the Son, who was born of Mary,
The benediction of the Holy Spirit of love,
Who watches over us like a mother for her children,
Descend upon us all. Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Prelude in C Major

by J.S. Bach

✠ *please rise in body or in spirit; unison prayers are in bold.*

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) practices an open communion. Visitors and children are encouraged to partake of the Lord's Supper. Please note that all shared Communion bread is gluten free, and all "wine" is grape juice.

This service is adapted from a service of story and song by the Rev. Kelly Boubel Shriver.

Today's scripture readings are from The Message, a contemporary language translation of the Bible by Eugene H. Peterson, a Presbyterian minister.

Next Sunday, August 11th, 2019

9:30 Worship Service

9:45 Summer Church School

Jean Goloski will be playing the music during today's worship. We thank Jean for her service!

We welcome **Herta Wulff** as our Worship Assistant this morning. Thanks to Herta for this service!

Throughout the rest of the summer, the sermon series will be "Great Stories from the Bible." Join us in worship as we revisit and explore some of the great stories that have formed us in our faith.

THE STAFF

Rev. Kate Jones Calone, Interim Pastor

Rev. Ashley McFaul-Erwin, Community Outreach Pastor

Noby Ishida, Director of Music

Aaron Watkins-Lopez, Church Administrator and Assistant to the Pastor

Heather Klein, Preschool Teacher/Co-Director Yvonne Sterrett, Preschool Teacher/Co-Director

Richard A. Holroyd, Church Treasurer

Mark Aicher, Financial Secretary