



The Reluctant Prophet: Grace is disturbing

Dr. Tim Bruster

Jonah 1: 1-3

Traditional Worship

11:00 am

March 11, 2018

WE GATHER

Prelude — Concerto for Trumpet I. Allegro

Joseph Haydn, composer/A. Goeyns, arranger

Welcome

Call to Worship

Women in Choir: I want to walk as a child of the light, I want to follow Jesus.

Leader: God of abundant grace, we admit that we are reluctant to admit that Your love extends even to those we deem unworthy.

Congregation: God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Men in Choir: God sent the stars to give light to the world, the Light of my life is Jesus.

Leader: God of extravagant grace, let us follow the ways of Jesus, offering Your grace and love, even when it is difficult.

Congregation: God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Choir: In him there is no darkness at all, the night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God.

Leader: God of amazing grace, You are the light of this world. Let us be Your people of love and mercy in a world too full of darkness.

Congregation: God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

All: Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

*Hymn 400 — Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

1. Come, thou Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of thy redeeming love.

2. Here I raise mine **Ebenezer**; ←
hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,

wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

3. O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, O take and seal it,
seal it for thy courts above.

Word of the Day:
Merciful

Memory Verse:
God is gracious
and merciful,
slow to anger
and abounding in
steadfast love.
— Exodus 34:6

In the Old
Testament, a man
named Samuel
placed a stone
as a symbol of
God's help. That
special "help stone"
monument is
called Ebenezer.

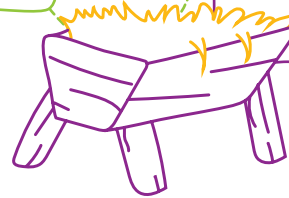
*Affirmation of Faith

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God who has created and is creating,



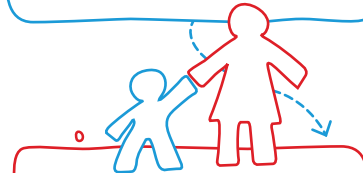
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new,



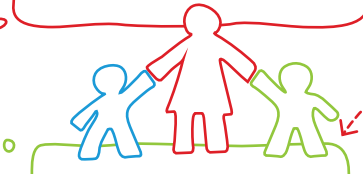
who works in us and others by the Spirit.



We trust in God. We are called to be the church.



To celebrate God's presence.



To love and serve others.



To seek justice and resist evil.

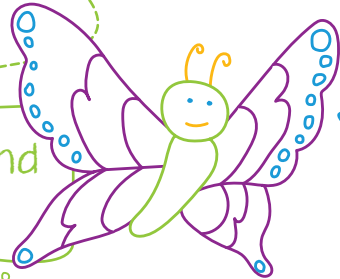
To proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.



In life

In death

In life beyond death



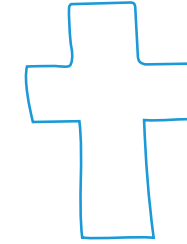
Amen.

God is with us. We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

*Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;



Gloria Patri means "Glory to the Father." This short hymn of praise has been sung by Christians for many centuries.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Please be seated. Ushers will assist in seating at this time.

WE PROCLAIM

Scripture — Jonah 1:1-3

God speaks to us through the reading of scripture.

Thanks be to God.

Faith Like a Child

*Passing the Peace

*Hymn — Hey, Jonah!

(sung to "Lord, I Want To Be a Christian")

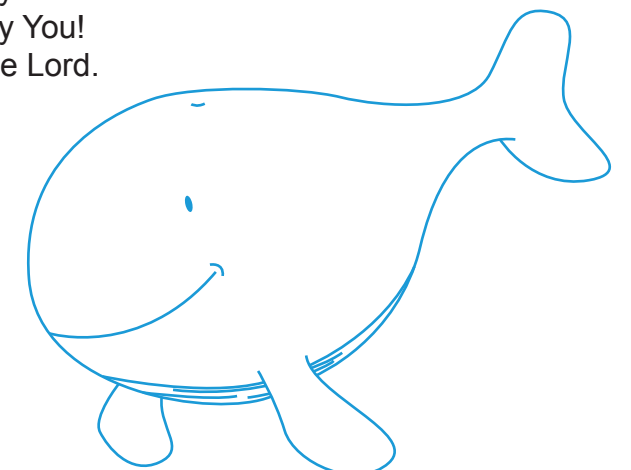
1. Jonah, Jonah, have you heard?
Said the Lord, "Go preach my Word."
Jonah said, "That's not for me!"
Took a ship and fled to sea.
Hey, Jonah, Jonah!
Hey, Jonah, Jonah!
Hey, Jonah, Jonah!
You should obey the Lord.

2. Though he thought he'd get away,
Soon the ship began to sway.
Jonah said, "It's for my sin!
Pick me up and throw me in."
Hey, Jonah, Jonah!
Hey, Jonah, Jonah!
Hey, Jonah, Jonah!
You should obey the Lord.

3. When it seemed that he would drown,
Came a fish and gulped him down.
Jonah prayed, "Lord, I'll obey;
Tell the folks about Your way."
Lord, I'll obey You!
Lord, I'll obey You!
Lord, I'll obey You!
I will obey the Lord.

Scripture: Each week we read from the Bible — the book of God's love. Its words can inspire you, comfort you, teach you, and challenge you to be your best self — a true servant of God.

You can listen as the scripture is read, or... Find a Bible nearby, look up the scripture, and follow along.



Sermon Snips:
You don't have to "just sit there." Choose one of the sermon snips and let it guide you as you take your relationship with God to the next level.



What about the sermon surprised you?

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Look at the title of the sermon. Write down a word or phrase you think you'll hear a lot. Listen carefully, and draw a star every time you hear that word or phrase.

Take the Bible story, or one of the stories from the sermon, and create a storyboard. Think of it as a 4-panel comic strip that tells the story.



Be mindful.
What is something deep inside you that God wants the world to know?

Make a list of all the things that distract you during the sermon. Can you fix some of these? Can God help?



Pastoral Prayer

Means of Grace: Studying the Scriptures (Lectio Divina)

Jesus said, “You are familiar with the old written law, ‘Love your friend,’ and its unwritten companion, ‘Hate your enemy.’ But, I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who hurt you. In this, you will be acting as children of God.

God makes the sun rise on both the evil and the good and sends rain on both the righteous and unrighteous. If all you do is love the lovable, what reward do you have? If you simply say hello to those who greet you, what more are you doing?

Therefore, just as God is complete in showing love to everyone, so also you must live out your God-given identity in showing love to everyone.

Directions for lectio divina:

- Reading 1: Close your eyes and listen to the scripture read aloud.
- Reading 2: Listen and read along in your bulletin, circling words and phrases that stand out to you.
- Reading 3: Listen and read along in your bulletin, considering what God might be communicating to you through this scripture. Is God inviting you to act or change? Be open to what you might be led to.

The Lord's Prayer

Find the Prayer Cross in your worship kit. The cord has five knots, and there are five parts to the prayer Jesus taught his friends. Hold each knot between your thumb and forefinger as you say the different parts of the 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. Amen.

WE RESPOND

Many years after Jesus went to heaven, the early church added this part of the prayer. Hold the prayer cross close to your heart as you say this part.

A Time of Giving

Offertory – Depth of Mercy

David Rasbach, composer

*Doxology

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.

*Invitation to Christian Discipleship

*Hymn 75

All People That On Earth Do Dwell

*Benediction

Our gathering will soon be ended, where will we go, and what will we do?
We will go out to be God's people in the world.
May grace, peace, hope, love, and joy forever accompany you. Amen.

How are you going to be one of God's people in the world this week?

Congregational Closing – Let There Be Peace on Earth

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God our Creator, children all are we.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now,
With every breath I take let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

*Postlude – Postlude on Aberystwyth

Ashley Grote, arranger

The white carnation symbolizes our sympathy to the family and friends of Frances Batchelor.

The red carnation symbolizes our congratulations to Casey and Michael Orr on the birth of their daughter, Abigail Grace.

Worship Leaders:

- Dr. Tim Bruster Senior Pastor
- Mr. Robert Stovall, Director of Music and Worship Arts
- Mrs. Peggy Graff, Organist/Associate Director of Music and Worship Arts
- Liturgists:** Rev. Phyllis Barren, Dr. Mike Marshall, Ms. Carol Popp
- Faith Like a Child:** Mister Mark, Jackson McCollum, helper
- Choir:** Choral Union
- Instrumentalist:** Taylor White, trumpet
- Acolytes:** Canon Hamilton, Katherine Johnson

*Please stand as you are able.

WORSHIP KIT

↪ INSIDE YOU WILL FIND ↪

TREASURES OF NATURE BOX

One of the best ways we can experience God's power and love is by cherishing God's handiwork in the wonders of nature. Carefully open the box and discover what treasures wait inside.

BLANK CARD

You can use the pencil and crayons to make a *Thank You* note for someone in the Sanctuary who helped make worship feel special to you. It could be a parent, a minister, a choir member, an usher, or someone in the next pew who gave you a friendly wave. After the service, ask your parents to take you to hand-deliver the card.

ANOINTING BALM

Use the anointing balm to bless a friend or family member sitting next to you. Rub a tiny bit of the balm on your thumb and trace the sign of the cross on your neighbor's forehead or back of the hand (whichever they prefer). As you do this, say a simple blessing, such as "God bless you." (It's not just for sneezes.) Or, for a longer blessing, you could say:

*You are a special person.
God loves you, and so do I.
Bless you.*

And don't forget to allow your neighbor the privilege of getting to bless you.

PIPE STEMS

There are so many things you can do with pipe stems. You could:

- Listen to the sermon and sculpt an object you hear mentioned.
- Shape them in the initials of someone you'd like to pray for.
- Look around the Sanctuary and sculpt something you see.
- Sculpt a flower and give it to a family member.
- Make a friendship bracelet and give it to a friend, or to a new member.

PRAYER CROSS

The cross is such a powerful symbol of God's love and hope. Anytime is a good time to hold on to the cross. See inside the bulletin for how to use the prayer cross during the Lord's Prayer.

TANGLE

Listen to a piece of music or a Bible story and mold the tangle to show how it makes you feel. Does it make you feel:

- Open and ready for God's presence?
- Tangled and confused?
- Wrapped snugly and securely?
- Calm like a gentle stream?
- Not sure?

PENCIL AND CRAYONS

Use these to write notes in your bulletin, draw a prayer, illustrate a story you hear in the sermon, or even ask hard questions.

CLOTH FIGURE

Here are just a few things you can do with the cloth figure:

- Have it act out the events in the Bible story.
- Help it read the bulletin.
- Gently hold it the way God is holding you right now.

EYE SPY CARD AND TELESCOPE

Use the Eye Spy card to identify some of the many meaningful objects and symbols in our Sanctuary. Use the telescope to help you explore.

