
~PRAYERS & CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE~

Pastor: God of all goodness; People: hear our prayer.

~INVITATION TO SHARING OUR GIFTS, TITHES, & OURSELVES~

OFFERTORY PRAYER: (Unison)

Ever-present God who speaks in thunder and earthquakes and in the softest whisper: we long to hear your voice over all the noise of the world this day. In a world so divided and polarized, we need to hear not only the voice of the Shepherd but the cries of other sheep who are being marginalized, forgotten, and abandoned. May the gifts we offer today be our response to hearing the one who speaks in the language of love and compassion. In his holy name, Amen. (John 10:11-18)

CLOSING HYMN: "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love" TFWS 2223

~SENDING FORTH/BENEDICTION~

*Liturgist: Sisters and brothers, our Lord Jesus Christ personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed!

Once you were like sheep who wandered away. But now you have returned to your Shepherd, the Guardian of your souls. Thanks be to God!

All: We go in peace to serve God and Creation. And the presence of our God goes with us. Amen.

*Pastor: Go now with your trust in the good shepherd, and let us love, not just in words, but in truth and action. Believe in the name of Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as he has commanded us. And may God be at your side, even in valleys of death. May Christ Jesus be the cornerstone of your life. And may the Holy Spirit abide in you and tend you with love and mercy all the days of your life. We go in peace to love and serve the Lord, In the name of Christ.

POSTLUDE:



5th AVE. UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

323 South 5th Avenue ~ West Bend WI 53095

Listen to my Voice



to say." He says, "Listen to my voice." "I am speaking" is the implied message, so pay attention.

Shhhhh...Listen to my Voice!

**Good Shepherd
Sunday
April 25, 2021**

The real question for us today is not, "Will God speak to me, to us today?" Instead, will we listen for that voice that is speaking? Jesus doesn't say, "Listen and maybe I'll have something



**Liturgist
Singer**

Rev. Clarissa Martinelli, Pastor

***Note: L: denotes worship Leader ~ P: denotes People**

~GATHERING GOD'S PEOPLE~

ORGAN PRELUDE

~WELCOME~

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: People of God, we gather together to worship God, the Shepherd of our souls. The one who has created us, who sustains us, who redeems us, who walks beside us in good times and bad, and who calls us to follow. This is our God! Come. Let's worship Him together!

Pastor Clarissa: 847-721-1826; Ms. Ellen Johnson: 262-338-8535 or faumc.org

~COME, LET US WORSHIP TOGETHER~

CENTERING MUSIC

*CALLED TO WORSHIP (Responsively)

P: I AM the good shepherd

L: the one who tends us,
guides us into pastures,
who recognizes the sounds of our names.

P: I AM the good shepherd

L: the one who bends to heal us
travels through the deepest valleys with us
who gives up everything for us all.

P: I AM the good shepherd

L: the one whose rod and staff comfort us
whose strength and love hold us
whose cup of love runneth over.

P: I AM the good shepherd

L: and we will dwell
in the house of the Lord forever.

All: Let us gather here God's People in God's love for God's world.

*PRAYER OF THE CHURCH (Unison)

O God who labors without ceasing, to bring all people into wholeness and into oneness with you, we confess our reluctance to live in unity with all your people. Forgive us for not remembering that we are Your sheep, and You are our Shepherd. Forgive us when we have not listened for Your voice and instead have acted in the ways of the world. Guide us back to Your path, to loving You and loving our neighbors. Help us to unclench our fists and lend out our hands in hope and healing, forgiveness and love. Help us to overcome the scandal of our pride – the pride of race, creed, class, and color – that your church might be a worthy witness to your good news of love and forgiveness, through Jesus Christ, our risen Shepherd we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The Good Shepherd knows the sheep, and the Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep so that the sheep may live. We are part of the flock; we are part of Christ's body. In Christ we find wholeness and restoration. Go forth and share this Good News.: you are forgiven. Amen.

HYMN
2162

“Grace Alone”

TFWS

~WE PROCLAIM~

John 10:11-18 The Voice (VOICE)

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep in His care. The hired hand is not like the shepherd caring for His own sheep. When a wolf attacks, snatching and scattering the sheep, he runs for his life, leaving them defenseless. The hired hand runs because he works only for wages and does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know My sheep, and My sheep know Me. As the Father knows Me, I know the Father; I will give My life for the sheep. There are many more sheep than you can see here, and I will bring them as well. They will hear My voice, and the flock will be united. One flock. One shepherd. The Father loves Me because I am willing to lay down My life—but I will take it up again. My life cannot be taken away by anybody else; I am giving it of My own free will. My authority allows Me to give My life and to take it again. All this has been commanded by My Father.

L: The Word of God for the People of God. **P: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON “Learning To Hear Our Shepherd's Voice: Jesus, The Good Shepherd”
Pastor Clarissa

~WELCOMING, ENGAGING, AND TEACHING OUR YOUTH~

Listening to God (The Story of Jonah)

Youth Sermon on Jonah and the Whale – Jonah 3:10

Lesson Focus: Even when we don't understand, it's important to do what God wants us to do. Scripture: Jonah 1:17; Jonah 2;

Ask Youth – Have you ever chosen not to follow directions from your teachers or parents? (Allow responses)

Why didn't you want to follow the directions?

Sometimes we might not want to follow directions because we don't understand why we must do something. We also might disagree about it, or we might even be afraid.

In the book of Jonah, we learn about a man named Jonah who didn't want to do what God wanted him to do. He chose to disobey God, and he had consequences.

God wanted Jonah to go to a place called Nineveh, but Jonah didn't want to go!?

God really needed Jonah's help because He wanted to help the people of Nineveh. They were making bad choices, and God wanted Jonah to go warn them and help them turn their lives around and worship God. Jonah didn't want to go because he didn't want to help the people that lived in Nineveh. He didn't want to love them.

God helped Jonah learn a very important lesson about listening to and following God's plans.

When you choose not to follow directions from your teachers or parents, what might happen?

Well, God had an even bigger way to get Jonah's attention! When Jonah refused to follow God's directions, God used a giant whale to get his attention!

When Jonah was trying to run away from God, God used a whale to swallow Jonah! He stayed in the whale for 3 days and 3 nights. During that lonely time, Jonah did a lot of

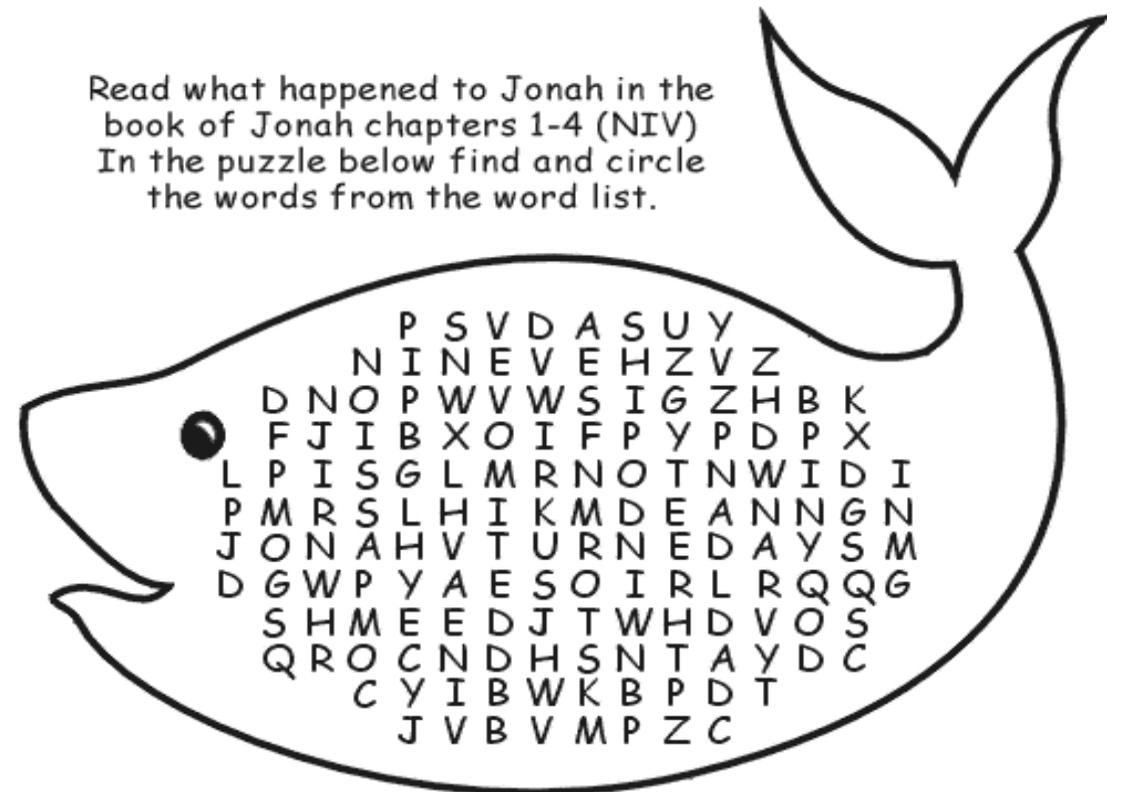
praying. He told God that he was ready to listen and that he would go to the city of Nineveh and let the people know that they needed to change their ways and follow God. And do you know what? The people in the city listened to Jonah, and they asked God for forgiveness. They changed their ways and promised to live better lives and make better choices. God used Jonah to help save the lives of many people in the city of Nineveh. Jonah 3:10 explains what God did after Jonah spoke to the people of Nineveh and after they chose to change their lives and follow God. *"When God saw what they did and how they chose better ways to live, He forgave them and protected them."*

Even though Jonah didn't understand why God wanted to help the people of Nineveh, he **DID** learn to listen to God. Jonah learned to follow God's directions, even when he was afraid, and didn't agree. God was trying to help Jonah learn to have compassion for others and to learn that because God loves and forgives us of our sins, we should forgive others that have done wrong things. Even when we don't understand God's plans, it's important that we listen to and obey God.

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for loving us. When you ask us to do something, it's hard sometimes. Please help us remember to follow your commands, even when we don't understand all of your plans. Help us learn to listen to you, and help us to love and forgive others. Amen

Read what happened to Jonah in the book of Jonah chapters 1-4 (NIV) In the puzzle below find and circle the words from the word list.

JO
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P



WIND STORM SEA FISH SWALLOW
THREE DAYS NIGHTS PRAYED VOMITED
DRY LAND TURNED COMPASSION VINE WORM