

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2021 – 10:00 AM

Congregational responses are in **bold** type.

WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

The Prelude

Announcements

Joys and Concerns

PRAISE

Call to Worship

Leader: At the beginning of our worship together, we pray to you, gracious, loving, and giving God, in gratitude for the amazing richness of the blessings that are ours in Jesus Christ.

All: Guide and illumine us this day into a deeper discernment of the ways you make our community of faith rich in the blessings of your Holy Spirit. Help us turn away from anxious fears about our shortcomings and needs, and turn toward a vision of abundant blessings. We pray, in the name of the one who is your greatest gift to us, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Confession

God, you call us to honesty about who we are and all that we do. In these moments, make us honest with ourselves. We remember now those things we have done or left undone that have hurt others, that have caused suffering and pain to our world, that have betrayed our love for ourselves. *(Pause for silent reflection.)* Give us now the courage and the wisdom to do things differently, to change our behavior so that in asking for forgiveness we might lead forgiven lives. In the spirit of Jesus Christ who befriended and loved all sinners, we now pray. Amen.

Assurance

No greater sign of presence and love could be given than that which God has given in Jesus the Christ. This is the revelation of God, the miracle of grace bestowed upon us to set us free from the burden of our sin. Praise and thanks be to God!

Hymn: *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* #23, vs 1 & 2

1 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 earthly sorrows
are more felt than in God's heaven;
there's no place where earthly failings
have such kindly judgment given.

2 For the love of God is broader
than the measures of our minds;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful,
we would gladly trust God's Word,
and our lives would show thanksgiving
for the goodness of our God.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Old Testament Lesson: Jonah 3.1-5, 10

Conversion of Nineveh

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

Message *“Connecting with Our Inner Jonah”* Pastor Don Francois

Silent Prayer

Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin 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 PREPARE TO GO TO THE WORLD

Closing Hymn: *“Where Charity and Love Prevail”*

#396, all verses

Where charity and love prevail,
there God is ever found;
Brought here together by Christ’s love,
by love are we thus bound.

With grateful joy and holy fear
true charity we learn;
Let us with heart and mind and strength
now love Christ in return.

Forgive we now each other’s faults
as we our faults confess;
And let us love each other well
in Christian holiness.

Let strife among us be unknown,
let all contention cease;
Be Christ the glory that we seek,
be Christ’s His holy peace.

Benediction

Postlude