



**And the people of  
Nineveh believed  
God...**

**Jonah 3:5, NRSV**

**September 20, 2020**

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
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Fremont, CA 94536  
Church: (510) 793-6285

September 20, 2020  
16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity  
Web Site: holytrinityfremont.org

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## GATHERING . . . WORD . . . SENDING

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[Click here for a video of the service.](#)

**PRELUDE . . .** *“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”*

**WELCOME**

**SINGING BOWL**

**INVOCATION**

*P: When nothing is right, when we are weary and lost, when  
clouds dull the sky,*

**All: help us to be still.**

*P: When our cries are unheeded, when no effort bears fruit, when  
the sun sets,*

**All: help us to be still.**

*P: When love is over, when hope is gone, when darkness covers  
the land,*

**All: help us to be still.**

*P: For in being still, in refusing to panic or despair, we shall come  
to know that God is there,*

**All: suffering alongside and with us, waiting to show us  
stepping-stones through the swirling waters, and to help us  
sing a new song.**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**L:** We gather as people on a journey.

**All: We believe & we have doubts, we do good & we sin. We are  
imperfect humans, and still beloved by God.**

L: Love and grace. Hope and faith. These are the essence of the one we call God.

**All: We seek forgiveness & grace from the One and from those we've harmed.**

L: Assured of that grace, we are ready to grow again.

**All: We yearn for a new way, a new perspective, and a clear path.**

L: Though we are full of trust and full of doubt,

**All: we are here.**

L: Speak to us, God! Continue creating us!

**All: Inspire our hearts. Enlighten our minds. Guide our actions. Amen.**

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross.

*P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.*

**All: Amen.**

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

Silence for Reflection

*P: Faithful God, have mercy on us.*

**All: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.**

*P: We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways.*

**All: We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves.**

*P: We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.*

**All: We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.**

*P: Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,*

**All: and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*P: God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection,*

**All: Christ has made us his own.**

*P: Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of Jesus Christ.*

**All: Led by the Holy Spirit, we will live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world. Amen.**

## LITANY

L: Lord of steadfast love and mercy, through your Word, you have set promises before your people.

**All: Promises for good and not for evil,**

L: promises for care and not for harm,

**All: promises fulfilled through life and death,**

L: promises realized through sorrow and joy.

**All: You have washed us clean, and guided us in righteousness.**

L: Eternal is your Word and life-altering your love.

**All: Still, we have strayed all too often and trusted too little.**

L: Our words have been cold, and our hearts closed off.

**All: In emptiness we have trusted and falseness we have acted.**

L: Yet you have washed us clean, and guided us in righteousness.

**All: Eternal is your Word and life-altering your love.**

L: In these seasons of giving and thanksgiving, remind us of that love which knows no bounds.

**All: Guide us in your desire for justice and forgiveness. And teach us to give, even as you are giving. In the name of your Son Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

## THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities,

**All: grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

Reader: Hear the word of God,

**All: that we might walk in holiness all our days.**

Reader: Receive the word of God,

**All: that it might be at work within us.**

Reader: Heed the word of God,

**All: that we may become its servant.**

Reader: Today's reading is from Jonah chapter three, beginning with the tenth verse.

## READING . . . *Jonah 3:10--4:11*

When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] 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.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the

bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

## **RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

Reader: By the word, God calls us into covenant.

**All: May the divine word work within us.**

Reader: May we be receptive students of it.

**All: May it show us the call of service in Christ’s holy Church.**

## **CHILDREN’S TIME . . . *Pastor Tim***

## **HOMILY . . . *Pastor Tim***

## **OFFERING**

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

L: God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours,

**All: and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.**

L: Water and word, wine and bread:

**All: these are signs of your abundant grace.**

L: Nourish us through these gifts,

**All: that we might proclaim your steadfast love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. Amen.**

### **THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

L: Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. Generous God, you make the last first, and the first last. Where this gospel

challenges the church, equip it for its works of service.

Strengthen those who suffer for Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

L: Where we find envy and create enemies, you provide enough for all. Bring peace to places of conflict and violence. Inspire leaders with creativity and wisdom. Bless the work of negotiators, peacekeepers, and development workers. Lord, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

L: Reveal yourself to all in need as you are gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, ready to relent from punishing. Accompany judges and lawyers, victims of crime and those serving sentences. Give fruitful labor and a livelihood to those seeking work. Lord, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

L: Even beyond our expectations, you choose to give generously. Grant life, health, and courage to all who are in need. Lord, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

L: Hear now the prayers of our hearts said silently or aloud.

Here other prayers may be offered.

L: Lord, in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayers.**

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

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### BENEDICTION

*P: Mothering God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.*

**All: Amen.**

### DISMISSAL

**L:** Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE . . . “On Our Way Rejoicing”**

### SINGING BOWL

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Pastor: Tim Huff

Lay Liturgist: Terri MacFarlane

Reader: Bethany Stevenin

Music: Leilani Camara

Video Editing: Carmen Blair

Web and Social Media: Keith Hillesland and Kathy Miedema

