January 21, 2024 Third Sunday after Epiphany

PREWORSHIP MUSIC GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS PRELUDE

Mr. Kevin Crone

(*Please stand in body and/or spirit*)

CALL TO WORSHIP - Based on Psalm 62:5-8

Pastor: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

Congregation: You are our Mighty Rock. We will not be shaken.

Pastor: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

Congregation: You are our hope. We place our trust in you.

Pastor: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

Congregation: You are our refuge. We rest in your abiding love.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

All people: O God, you are our light and salvation. Living in your presence, we have nothing to fear. Open our hearts to your word this day. As we hear you call Jonah's to go to Ninevah and the call of the first disciples, make us ready to follow you, O God, on whatever path you would leads us. Cast aside our fears and doubts and teach us to trust wholly in you. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

HYMNO Jesus, I Have PromisedBlue Chalice Hymnal, #612

CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor: Even though we promise to follow our Lord, we know that our lives do not always reflect God's intention. So please join me in the prayer of confession, printed in the bulletin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All people: O Lord, we listen to the stories of the call of the disciples and find them interesting but unrealistic. When we look at our own lives, we believe that we could not leave everything to follow someone we did not know. We have many responsibilities and ties which keep us from following. But God, you are persistent and understand our confusion and doubts. Even so, you continue to call us to be in ministry and mission in the world. It may not mean leaving everything behind, but it does mean being willing to serve wherever you call us. That's hard. We want to place conditions on service, and usually those conditions are ''if we have time,'' ''if we have energy.'' or ''if we can just try serving for a little while to see how it all works out''. Still God, you call to each of us. Discipleship is difficult. Forgive us, patient and persistent Lord, for the

<u>References</u>

- <u>The Prayer of Invocation and Prayer of Confession</u> were written by Nancy Townley for: **WORSHIP CONNECTION: JANUARY 21, 2024**; Ministry Matters. (adapted by Pastor Laura)
- <u>The Offering Invitation and Prayer of Dedication</u> are from: *The Waiting*: Service Prayers for the Third Sunday after Epiphany and were written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ.

many times we turn our backs on serving you and focus on our own comforts. Forgive us when we look the other way when people are in need. Forgive us for our angry attitudes and actions which hurt rather than heal. Wrap your arms around us. Heal our wounds and bind us to you. Gently move us into service in your name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

- Pastor: The Lord is faithful to hear and forgive. Walk now in the confidence that God hears and forgives, loves, and restores. Walk as one forgiven and tell others of the love of God.
- All people: To God be the glory, for all the things God has done!

PRAISE HYMN	To God be the Glory	Blue Chalice Hymnal, #72
	(Refrain, Only)	
Praise the Lo	ord! Praise the Lord, let the earth	hear His voice!
Praise the	Lord! Praise the Lord, let the peo	ople rejoice!
O co	me to the Father, through Jesus th	he Son,
And give	e Him the glory – great things He	hath done!

(*The congregation may be seated, as the children & youth come forward*) **JESUS SAID, "LET THE CHILDREN COME"**

SPECIAL MUSIC	This Little Light of Mine	Chime Choir
HEBREW READING		Jonah 1:1 – 2:2, 10; 3:1-5, 10
HYMN	Rock of Ages	Blue Chalice Hymnal, #214
GOSPEL READING		Mark 1:14-20
SERMON		Rev. Laura Baker

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

All people: 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 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.

ANTHEM

Come Down, O Love Divine

(An Offering Collection Box is located on the table in the back of sanctuary, by the exit door) **OFFERING INVITATION**

Liturgist: Our communities and the world rely upon the generosity of those who have received from God's abundance. Let us offer our gifts in the knowledge that some wait on us to act, to share, and to give. We add to all we give, a song and prayer.

(*Please stand in body and/or spirit*)

OFFERING RESPONSE Accept, O God, the Gifts Blue Chalice Hymnal, #379 (Tune: Ellacombe) Accept, O God, the gifts we bring of spirit and of clay. Transform them into blessings on those we serve today.

Rekindle deep within us all a passion to fulfill – The ministry disciples have, empowered to do your will.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All people:	Eternal God, magnify these gifts that we return in gratitude and for your glory.
	Amen.

HYMN	Here I Am, Lord	Blue Chalice Hymnal, #452

BENEDICTION

Pastor:	As the disciples walked with Christ so long ago,
	walk with Christ in your hearts and spirits.
	Feel the power of the Holy Spirit guiding your path –
	directing your words and actions.
	Know the love of God which is poured out for you and for many –
	and REJOICE!
All people:	Amen.

POSTLUDE

Chancel Choir