

United Methodist Church at Shrub Oak - ORDER OF WORSHIP
January 21, 2024 - Third Sunday after Epiphany

ALTAR FLOWERS: The flowers on the altar are given by the Church, “To the glory of God; who calls us, encourages us, and strengthens us daily to heed His call, walk in His ways, and to shine His light in the world.”

GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: God called to Jonah to get up, go to Nineveh and proclaim God’s word.

P: But Jonah refused, Until God called a second time.

L: God is persistent. God believes in those whom God has called.

P: Jesus called the disciples by the lakeshore

L: They left their families and jobs to follow Jesus.

P: Lord, give us the courage to follow you all of our lives. AMEN.

PRAISE & WORSHIP: (YouTube)

PRAISE SHARING

OPENING PRAYER:

Oh God, you are our light and our salvation. Living in your presence, we have nothing to fear. Open our hearts to your word this day. As we hear the story of the call of the first disciples, make us ready to follow Jesus on whatever path he leads us. Cast aside our fears and doubts, and teach us to trust wholly in you. For we ask this in Jesus’ name AMEN.

OPENING HYMN: “Grace Greater Than Our Sin” - UMH #365

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

We listen to the stories of the call of the disciples and we find them interesting but unrealistic. When we look at our own lives, we believe that we could not leave everything to follow someone we didn’t know. We have responsibilities and ties which keep us from following. But God is persistent. God understands our confusion and doubts. And God continues to call us to be in ministry and mission in this world. God calls each of us. Discipleship is difficult. Forgive us, patient and persistent Lord, for the very 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. Wrap your arms around us, healing our wounds, binding us to you. Gently move us into service in your name. AMEN.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Do not be afraid. God is with you! That is good news. You do not have to go through life alone, wondering if anyone cares about you or knows your heart. God knows and God loves you. Rejoice for thus it is, has always been, and will continue to be. God's love for you is eternal. AMEN

SCRIPTURE READING: Jonah 1-2:10, 3:1-5, 10 (NIV)

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS (*children will be dismissed right after*)

HYMN OF PREPARATION: "I Surrender All" – UMH #354

GOSPEL: Mark 1:14-20 (NIV)

SERMON: The Road to Revival

1. Should I Stay or Should I Go?
2. We Will Survive the Storm
3. Are You Ready to Make a Difference?

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERTORY: "Create in Me a Clean Heart, Oh God"

DOXOLOGY:

CLOSING HYMN: "Lead On, Oh King Eternal" - UMH #580

BENEDICTION:

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. Know the love of God which is poured out for you and rejoice. Go in peace and may God's peace go with you. AMEN

SCRIPTURE READING

Jonah 1-2:10, 3:1-5, 10 (NIV)

¹ The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai:

² “Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.”

³ But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD.

⁴ Then the LORD sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up.

⁵ All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god. And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship. But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep.

⁶ The captain went to him and said, “How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us so that we will not perish.”

⁷ Then the sailors said to each other, “Come, let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this calamity.” They cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah.

⁸ So they asked him, “Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us? What kind of work do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?”

⁹ He answered, “I am a Hebrew and I worship the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.”

¹⁰ This terrified them and they asked, “What have you done?” (They knew he was running away from the LORD, because he had already told them so.)

¹¹ The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So they asked him, “What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?”

¹² “Pick me up and throw me into the sea,” he replied, “and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you.”

¹³ Instead, the men did their best to row back to land. But they could not, for the sea grew even wilder than before.

¹⁴ Then they cried out to the LORD, “Please, LORD, do not let us die for taking this man’s life. Do not hold us accountable for killing an innocent man, for you, LORD, have done as you pleased.”

¹⁵ Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm.

¹⁶ At this the men greatly feared the LORD, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows to him.

Jonah’s Prayer

¹⁷ Now the LORD provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

2 ¹ From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the LORD his God.

² He said: “In my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me. From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help, and you listened to my cry.

³ You hurled me into the depths, into the very heart of the seas, and the currents swirled about me; all your waves and breakers swept over me.

⁴ I said, ‘I have been banished from your sight, yet I will look again toward your holy temple.’

⁵ The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me; seaweed was wrapped around my head.

⁶ To the roots of the mountains I sank down; the earth beneath barred me in forever. But you, LORD my God, brought my life up from the pit.

⁷ “When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, LORD, and my prayer rose to you, to your holy temple.

⁸ “Those who cling to worthless idols turn away from God’s love for them.

⁹ But I, with shouts of grateful praise, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. I will say, 'Salvation comes from the LORD.'"

¹⁰ And the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

3 Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time:

² "Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you."

³ Jonah obeyed the word of the Lord and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it.

⁴ Jonah began by going a day's journey into the city, proclaiming, "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown."

⁵ The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

¹⁰ When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

GOSPEL READING

Mark 1:14-20 (NIV)

¹⁴ After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God.

¹⁵ “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

Jesus Calls His First Disciples

¹⁶ As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen.

¹⁷ “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.”

¹⁸ At once they left their nets and followed him.

¹⁹ When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets.

²⁰ Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

UMCSO SCHEDULE

Zoom links are included in Mailchimp. Please contact us with your email (umcso.ny@gmail.com) or call 914-245-4682 if you would like to receive Mailchimp emails.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

WOMEN'S SMALL GROUP: Monday, 7:00 pm, (ZOOM)

MORNING BIBLE STUDY: Tuesday 10:00 am (In Person)

EVENING BIBLE STUDY: Tuesday 7:00 pm (ZOOM)

SMALL GROUP 1: Wednesday, 1:00 pm (ZOOM)

PRAYER GROUP: Thursday, 11:00 am (Chapel)

EVENING BIBLE STUDY: Thursdays, 7:30 pm with Pastor Sandy (ZOOM). (See link below).

SMALL GROUP 2: Friday, 10:00 am (phone 1-267-807-9495; 656355452#)

CRAFTS FOR A CAUSE: Friday, 11:00 am - 12 noon (various homes)

MEN'S GROUP: Saturday 8:00 am (ZOOM)

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: 9:30 am in the GP room (In person)

SMALL GROUP LEADERS MEETING: Saturday, Jan. 20, 2024 9:30 am

TEACHER'S MEETING: This Sunday, Jan. 21st following worship

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Pastor Sandy Mantz invites you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Bible Study

Date/Time: Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2610447551?pwd=MXVIUGgvOFRrS3RZNVB2a0pIRi8rUT09>

Meeting ID: 261 044 7551

Passcode: 246240

One tap mobile

+16469313860,,2610447551#,,, *246240# US

+16465588656,,2610447551#,,, *246240# US (New York)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RUTH BUSH'S MEMORIAL SERVICE: Took place on Friday, Jan. 12th but can be viewed here if anyone would like:

<https://youtube.com/live/dFnRVHEBN-I?feature=share>

CONFIRMATION CLASSES: Will meet this Sunday, Jan. 21, following worship. However, there will be no class next week, the 28th, so that all can attend the Pancake Brunch.

ANNUAL NEW YEAR PANCAKE BRUNCH: The Annual Pancake Brunch has been postponed until Jan 28th, following worship. As Always, "Flapjack" Casey and family will be blessing us with his infamous pancakes, however, this IS a Pot Trust event so please plan to bring a dish to share!

2024 FLOWERS: Just a reminder...Altar flowers are now \$50 for both bouquets. The order can be divided between families if preferred. However, please make the partnering arrangements personally and be sure the instructions are clear on the sign-up sheet in the breezeway.

REACH US ON FACEBOOK

United Methodist Church at Shrub Oak

<https://www.facebook.com/Blessedassurancetoday>

There is a link to the Church's website.
Pastor Sandy will post inspirational verses regularly.

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