

MUMC At-Home Worship:

September 20, 2020

It was wonderful to celebrate communion outside last Wednesday with some of you! I'm so glad for the many ways we're finding to continue living as the body of Christ throughout these challenging times. As we continue planning for the fall, we may schedule more outdoor communion services while the weather remains cooperative while still remaining committed to providing no-contact opportunities to engage in the life of the church. I know that everyone's health is unique and some of us will forego in-person activities for some time yet – and I celebrate your dedication to remaining healthy! We will continue offering this at-home worship guide alongside our other no-contact worship methods on into the foreseeable future.

We're continuing with the story of Jonah this week as he emerges from the big fish generally unaffected by the experience. May we learn more from his story than he did!
-Pastor Dillon

If available, place a candle in the center of your gathering space and light it with this prayer:

God, you invite us to a practice of reflection and growth. May our worship open our hearts to needed repentance and the joyful proclamation of your grace. Amen.

Hymn: *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me*, United Methodist Hymnal #361 – [watch/listen here](#)

New Testament Reading: Jonah 2:10-3:10

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Reflect:

1. Jonah goes to Nineveh and spends a single day in a city that takes three days to walk through, and he preaches a very brief sermon (only 5 words in the Hebrew). Interestingly, he never suggests that the Ninevites repent – though they do. What might this reveal about how Jonah views the Ninevite people?
2. In one of the funniest moments of the story, the king of Nineveh orders even his animal subjects to fast and to put on the mourning attire of sackcloth and ashes. Can you picture how absurd this might have looked? What might this action reveal about the Ninevite people's repentance?
3. The Ninevites have no assurance of God's forgiveness. "Who knows?" the king thinks, "God may see this and turn from his wrath," – and God does indeed! Do you imagine there to be any sinful depths from which God would not forgive the repentant? How might you describe the good news of God's forgiving character to a friend in your own words?

Hymn: *It's Me, It's Me, O Lord*, United Methodist Hymnal #352 – [watch/listen here](#)

Prayer Requests: Share prayer requests and have a moment of silent prayer

Lord's Prayer

Hymn: *Have Thine Own Way, Lord*, United Methodist Hymnal #382 – [watch/listen here](#)

Closing Prayer:

God of Jonah and Nineveh, you are abundantly gracious and forgive all who repent. May we remember that, just as we were forgiven from the depths, there are none beyond the grasp of grace. In the name of Christ, who offers forgiveness and redemption to the whole world, we pray. Amen. (*Blow out the candle*)

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me
United Methodist Hymnal #361

1. Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood,
from thy wounded side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure;
save from wrath and make me pure.
2. Not the labors of my hands
can fulfill thy law's demands;
could my zeal no respite know,
could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone;
thou must save, and thou alone.
3. Nothing in my hand I bring,
simply to the cross I cling;
naked, come to thee for dress;
helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly;
wash me, Savior, or I die.
4. While I draw this fleeting breath,
when mine eyes shall close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown,
see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee.

"Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me" words are by Augustus M. Toplady, 1776, and are in the public domain.

Jonah 2:10-3:10 (CEB)

Then the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto the dry land.

The LORD's word came to Jonah a second time: "Get up and go to Nineveh, that great city, and declare against it the proclamation that I am commanding you." And Jonah got up and went to Nineveh, according to the LORD's word. (Now Nineveh was indeed an enormous city, a three days' walk across.)

Jonah started into the city, walking one day, and he cried out, "Just forty days more and Nineveh will be overthrown!" And the people of Nineveh believed God. They proclaimed a fast and put on mourning clothes, from the greatest of them to the least significant.

When word of it reached the king of Nineveh, he got up from his throne, stripped himself of his robe, covered himself with mourning clothes, and sat in ashes. Then he announced, "In Nineveh, by decree of the king and his officials: Neither human nor animal, cattle nor flock, will taste anything! No grazing and no drinking water! Let humans and animals alike put on mourning clothes, and let them call upon God forcefully! And let all persons stop their evil behavior and the violence that's under their control!" He thought, Who knows? God may see this and turn from his wrath, so that we might not perish.

God saw what they were doing—that they had ceased their evil behavior. So God stopped planning to destroy them, and he didn't do it.

Scripture quotations noted CEB are taken from the Common English Bible, copyright 2011. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

It's Me, It's Me, O Lord
United Methodist Hymnal #352

Refrain:

It's me, it's me, O Lord,
standing in the need of prayer.
It's me, it's me, O Lord,
standing in the need of prayer.

1. Not my brother, not my sister,
but it's me, O Lord,
standing in the need of prayer.
Not my brother, not my sister,
but it's me, O Lord,
standing in the need of prayer. (*Refrain*)
2. Not the preacher, not the deacon,
but it's me, O Lord,
standing in the need of prayer.
Not the preacher, not the deacon,
but it's me, O Lord,
standing in the need of prayer. (*Refrain*)
3. Not my father, not my mother,
but it's me, O Lord,
standing in the need of prayer.
Not my father, not my mother,
but it's me, O Lord,
standing in the need of prayer. (*Refrain*)

"It's Me, It's Me, O Lord (Standing in the Need of Prayer)" is an African American spiritual and is in the public domain.

Have Thine Own Way, Lord
United Methodist Hymnal #382

1. Have thine own way, Lord!
Have thine own way!
Thou art the potter;
I am the clay.
Mold me and make me
after thy will,
while I am waiting,
yielded and still.
2. Have thine own way, Lord!
Have thine own way!
Search me and try me,
Savior today!
Wash me just now, Lord,
wash me just now,
as in thy presence
humbly I bow.
3. Have thine own way, Lord!
Have thine own way!
Wounded and weary,
help me I pray!
Power, all power,
surely is thine!
Touch me and heal me,
Savior divine!
4. Have thine own way, Lord!
Have thine own way!
Hold o'er my being
absolute sway.
Fill with thy Spirit
till all shall see
Christ only, always,
living in me!

"Have Thine Own Way, Lord" words are by Adelaide A. Pollard, 1902; are based on Jer. 18:6; and are in the public domain.