

**Astoria First United Methodist Church**  
*January 24, 2021*

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*Third Sunday after Epiphany*

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**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Mary Frances**

**CENTERING MUSIC**

**Kristen Hammond**

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

**Pastor Michael**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Lorel Bresko**

For God alone my soul waits in silence, for in God I find my hope. God alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. On God rests my deliverance and my honor; my mighty rock, my refuge is in God. Trust in God at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us. The God of all creation calls us. We come, knowing that our deliverance and honor rest in God. Power and steadfast love belong to God. We come to sing and pray, celebrating the presence of this mighty, loving God.

**OPENING PRAYER**

**Pastor Michael**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

*“Jonah 3:1-5, 10”*

**Lorel Bresko**

Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying, “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you.” So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days' journey in breadth. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's journey. And he called out, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

*“All Creatures of our God and King”*

**Kristen Hammond**

**CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

**Pastor Michael**

## **UNISON PRAYER FOR CONFESSION**

**Lorel Bresko**

Holy Fountain of Forgiveness, the tale of Jonah reminds us of your never-ending love for all creation. May we be like the people of Nineveh, who were able to acknowledge their sin and open their eyes to your healing presence. Our comfortable lives convince us we do not need to follow Jesus who lovingly endures with us in our struggles. Our work provides for our wants, so we have no need for your grace. Our friends are found indirectly or virtually, forgive when think there is no longer a need for community. Our fear, anxiety, and discomfort with the beliefs, cultures, and vulnerabilities of others simply confirms that we do not need to share your grace with them. We pour out our hearts to you and pray you would receive the pain that lurks in our humanity, as we offer up what we have hidden from ourselves and from the world—those words and deeds that keep us separated from your love.

## **MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

**Lorel Bresko**

At the very moment we begin our confession, we hear the good news proclaimed: God hears our words and God sees our changed hearts. God's enduring, faithful, and incalculable love is poured out upon us! We trust in you alone, Lord, in whom our salvation rests. Thanks be to God. Here this good news, I am forgiven. You are forgiven. We are all forgiven, always!  
In the name of Jesus, who is the Christ. Glory to God. **AMEN**

## **HYMN OF PREPARATION**

**Mary Frances Gunn**  
**UMH#580**

**“Lead On, O King Eternal”**

## **GOSPEL LESSON**

**“Mark 1:14-20”**

**Pastor Michael**

## **SERMON**

**”We Got the Call,  
it’s Time to Go!”**

**Pastor Michael**

## **JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**Mary Frances**

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

**Pastor Michael**

## **LORD’S PRAYER**

**Pastor Michael**

*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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. **AMEN.***

## **BENEDICTION:**

**Pastor Michael**

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## **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**We welcome to our friends from the Warrenton UMC  
as they join us for worship.**

**As a follow-up to our recent Four Week Advent Study,  
We are beginning another study in the new year.**

**Topic: Extraordinary Men and Women in the Bible**

**Our next study will be January 24, 2021.**

**Time: 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. by Zoom**

**All of January we will be doing our Stewardship / Pledge Drive.  
Please send your pledge cards into the church office As Soon As Possible.**

**We still need volunteers for liturgist each week.**

**Please call Sue Hicks or Mary Frances Gunn if you wish to help.**

**If you want to provide special music – let Mary Frances know.**

**We now have recordings of the worship services available as a link.**

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