

Sebastopol United Methodist Church
Sunday, January 24, 2021
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

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Order of Worship, including Scripture

Seasonal Theme:

Jesus grows up, and it begins to dawn on some who and what he is.

Theme for the day:

The call to discipleship, and the strong desire to escape the call, as Jonah tried to do.

Call to worship:

*(please read the **BOLD** text, aloud or silently as you prefer).*

Pastor: For God alone our souls wait in silence.

People: **In God alone do our spirits find peace.**

Pastor: Did you hear the good news?

People: **The kingdom of God has drawn near.**

Pastor: Do you trust the good news?

People: **We place our trust in Jesus, the one who calls to follow him.**

Pastor: Do you have the courage to leave your former lives behind?

People: **We put our faith in the Lord, our rock and our salvation.**

Pastor: Trust the Lord.

Unison: **We follow Jesus. Amen.**

Centering & Prayer of Illumination:

(please read along with Pastor, aloud or silently as you prefer)

Gracious God, guide us to a new rock of our salvation, that we might shelter in you. Grant us the strength to wait for you in silence, that we might meet you in the chambers of our souls; for in you we rest secure, in you we abide in holy love. Let us hear the word of God as those for whom the kingdom has drawn near. Let us live the word of God as those for whom the ways of God are deeply lived. We pray in your son Jesus's name. Amen.

Readings from Scripture: **Jonah 3:1-5, 10** **Mark 1:14-20**
(readings begin on page 3)

Message: **JUST TELL IT LIKE IT IS!**

Pastoral Prayer

With thanksgiving for God's gifts to us, let us offer ourselves and the fruits of our labor for God's work in the world. Thank you for continuing to send your offerings and pledges by mail.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication:

(please read along with Pastor, aloud or silently as you prefer)

Merciful God, you have saved us for a purpose. We dedicate these offerings as we dedicate our lives to you. Use us to be fishers of people who heed your call and to be determined to bring repentance and transformation to others. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.

Blessing and Benediction:

Believe in the good news. Be remorseful, but with a sure hope of success.
Be positive and firm in renewing your minds. Frame everything with Christ.

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(readings begin on the next page)

SCRIPTURE READINGS for January 24, 2021

first reading – **JONAH 3:1-5, 10**

The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, “Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!”

And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. When God saw what they 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.

second reading – **MARK 1:14-20**

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.” As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him

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Thank you for worshipping with us today.