The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

~ We Gather Together as God’s People ~


Jason Evans, organist

THE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS ................................................................. The Rev. Dr. Jody Moore

THE HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 611: “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” ........................ Hymn to Joy

THE OPENING PRAYER ............................................................................................ Jean Basnight, Liturgist

THE SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

THE ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS ....................................................... The Rev. Dr. Jody Moore

~ The Word of the Lord ~

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION ........................................................................ Jean Basnight, Liturgist

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Jonah 1:1-6, 11-17 .............................................. Jean Basnight, Liturgist

Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai, saying, “Go at once to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before me.” But Jonah set out to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid his fare and went on board, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the Lord.

But the Lord hurled a great wind upon the sea, and such a mighty storm came upon the sea that the ship threatened to break up. Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried to his god. They threw the cargo that was in the ship into the sea, to lighten it for them. Jonah, meanwhile, had gone down into the hold of the ship and had lain down, and was fast asleep.
The captain came and said to him, “What are you doing sound asleep? Get up, call on your god! Perhaps the god will spare us a thought so that we do not perish.”

Then they said to him, “What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?” For the sea was growing more and more tempestuous. He said to them, “Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you; for I know it is because of me that this great storm has come upon you.” Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring the ship back to land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more stormy against them. Then they cried out to the Lord, “Please, O Lord, we pray, do not let us perish on account of this man’s life. Do not make us guilty of innocent blood; for you, O Lord, have done as it pleased you.” So they picked Jonah up and threw him into the sea; and the sea ceased from its raging. Then the men feared the Lord even more, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows. But the Lord provided a large fish to swallow up Jonah; and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

THE SPECIAL MUSIC: “When Answers Aren’t Enough” ............................................ Nelson/Brown 
Christine Jackle, soloist

THE SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: Jonah 2:1-10 ............................................. The Rev. Dr. Jody Moore

Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the belly of the fish, saying,

“I called to the Lord out of my distress, and he answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice. You cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood surrounded me; all your waves and your billows passed over me. Then I said, ‘I am driven away from your sight; how shall I look again upon your holy temple?’ The waters closed in over me; the deep surrounded me; weeds were wrapped around my head at the roots of the mountains. I went down to the land whose bars closed upon me forever; yet you brought up my life from the Pit, O Lord my God. As my life was ebbing away, I remembered the Lord; and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple. Those who worship vain idols forsake their true loyalty. But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay. Deliverance belongs to the Lord!”

Then the Lord spoke to the fish, and it spewed Jonah out upon the dry land.

ONE: This is the Word of the Lord.
ALL: Thanks be to God.
THE SERMON: “Following Directions” ........................................ The Rev. Dr. Jody Moore

THE PIANO MEDITATION: “You Are My Strength When I Am Weak” ....................... Arr. Evans

 Jason Evans, pianist

THE PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD’S PRAYER (Spoken in Unison)

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen.

THE CHARGE & BENEDICTION

THE BENEDICTION RESPONSE: “May the Lord, Gracious Lord” ............................... Unknown

 May the Lord, gracious Lord, bless and keep us forever.
 Let us be more like Thee in our every endeavor.
 Holy Spirit, Eternal God, this we pray together.
 May the Lord, gracious Lord, bless and keep us forever.

THE ORGAN POSTLUDE: “Proclaim the Glory of the Lord” ................................. arr. Mark Kellner

 Jason Evans, organist

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Today’s flowers are given by Rosalyn Pugh:

“To God be the Glory.”
Those Leading us in Worship

The Rev. Dr. Jody Moore,
Pastor

Jason K. Evans,
Director of Music Ministries/Organist

Jean Basnight,
Liturgist

Christine Jackle,
Soloist

Don Younkin,
Audio & Visual Ministries

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