

Hope United Church of Christ



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THE CHURCH GATHERS FOR WORSHIP

Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 22, 2012

10:30 AM

WELCOME AND MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS AND RINGING THE BELL

PRELUDE "Shall We Gather at the River" -Michael Helman
Chancel Handbell Choir

() Indicates that those who are able are invited to stand.*

*WORDS OF GATHERING (1)

Leader: We enter this space for worship

People: called by God to pray together.

Leader: We enter this space for worship,

People: called by God to share our lives together.

Leader: We enter this space for worship,

People: called by God into Sabbath rest.

Leader: We enter this space for worship,

People: leaving behind the week that has gone.

Leader: We enter this space for worship,

People: to be refreshed for worship in our daily lives.

Leader: We enter this space for worship,

All: worshipping the God who calls us ever onward!

You Walk along Our Shoreline

504

Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1984; alt.

Mark 1:16-20; John 17:20-26

1 You walk a - long our shore - line where land meets un - known sea.
2 You call us, Christ, to gath - er the peo - ple of the earth.
3 We cast our net, O Je - sus; we seek your prom - ised reign;

We hear your voice of pow - er, "Now come and fol - low me. And
We can - not fish for on - ly those lives we think have worth. We
We work for love and jus - tice; we learn to hope through pain. You

if you still will fol - low through storm and wave and shoal,
spread your net of gos - pel a - cross the wa - ter's face,
call on us to gath - er God's daugh - ters and God's sons,

Then I will make you fish - ers, but of the hu - man soul."
Our boat a com - mon shel - ter for all found by your grace.
To let your judg - ment heal us so that all may be one.

Hymnwriter Sylvia Dunstan credited an article by Michael Steinhauser in the March 1984 issue of Practice of Ministry in Canada entitled "Fishing: A Metaphor for Ministry" as the inspiration for her text. Dunstan was an ordained minister of the United Church of Canada.

Tune: SALLEY GARDENS 7.6.7.6.D.
Traditional Irish melody
Harm. The New Century Hymnal, 1994

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION (1)**

When we hear God calling us onward, sometimes it can be hard to leave things behind. Things like hurts and grief, disappointment or success, material possessions, family, friends.

We acknowledge that for some of us gathered here, there might be things we need to leave behind so we can move forward into God's future.

For some of us, the concerns on our heart might be those things our church, our community, and our world need to leave behind in order to move forward.

As Jesus called the fishers to leave behind their nets and boats and way of life to follow and learn from him, so we are invited to discern the things we might leave behind.

(moment of silent confession)

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (1)**

God does not leave us alone. All we hope for comes from God. In God we find strength and comfort. Trust, therefore, in God, as you turn your life around. The reign of God, God's way of love, is for all!

Thanks be to God. Amen.

*** RESPONSE OF PRAISE #160 Refrain (New Century Hymnal)**

**We will follow the light, beautiful light,
Come where the dewdrops of mercy are bright,
Shine all around us by day and by night,
Jesus the light of the world.**

***PASSING THE PEACE**

CONVERSATION WITH OUR CHILDREN

Ed Zumwinkel

HANDBELL ANTHEM "How Great Thou Art"

-Stuart Hine; Arr. by Joel Raney

THE CHURCH LISTENS FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Pew Bible p.753

Mark 1:14-20

Pew Bible p.812

SERMON

Sarah Fredriksen McCann

SILENCE AND REFLECTION

THE CHURCH RESPONDS TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN "Will You Come and Follow Me?"

Hymn printed on separate page

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: A SIGN OF COMMITMENT (2)

During a brief time of silence, the congregation is invited to use the small piece of paper inserted in each bulletin to write down a promise of commitment to God and take that paper home as a reminder of the commitment and of God's promise to walk with us in our journeys of faith.

*Leader: Let us stand, if we are able, and affirm our faith together:

**All: We believe that God is present in the darkness before the dawn;
in the waiting and uncertainty where fear and courage join hands,
conflict and caring link arms, and the sun rises over barbed wire.
We believe in a with-us God who sits down in our midst to share our humanity. We affirm a
faith that takes us beyond the safe place: into action, into vulnerability and into the streets.
We commit ourselves to work for change and put ourselves on the line;
to bear responsibility, to take risks, live powerfully and face humiliation;
to stand with those on the edge; to choose new life
and be used by the Holy Spirit for God's new community of hope.
Amen.**

NAMING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

CALL TO PRAYER (tune: "O Lord, hear my prayer")

**The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise:
All my hope comes from God.
The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise:
God, the well-spring of life.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

OFFERTORY "O How Happy Are Ye"

-Johannes Brahms

*DOXOLOGY (#782 *New Century Hymnal*)

**To God, all glorious heavenly Light,
To Christ revealed in earthly night,
To God the Spirit now we raise
Our joyful songs of thankful praise.**

*COMMISSIONING HYMN #173 "You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore" (NCH)

Hymn printed on separate page

*COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING (1)

As we go into the future God has promised, remember that God is there before us, God is here beside us, God is the path we follow and the light that guides us.

As we go into the future God has promised, may God be with us always: source of life, source of grace, source of love. Amen!

*POSTLUDE "Voluntary in G"

-William Walond

THE CHURCH DISPERSES TO SERVE

Worship Endnotes

- (1) Adapted from Seasons of the Spirit, 2012.
- (2) Adapted from Iona Abbey Worship Book, Iona Community, 2001

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SERMON REFLECTIONS

What images, thoughts, connections or questions, arose for you as you experienced worship today? Use the space below to write or draw or “doodle” those reflections.