

Order of Worship for Sunday, January 24, 2020

Third Sunday after Epiphany - *Not available on prerecorded services

Listen at 814-422-6238. Watch online at www.PennsValleyParish.info

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: God called to Jonah to get up, go to Nineveh and proclaim God's word.

P: But Jonah refused, until God called a second time.

L: God is persistent. God believes in those whom God has called.

P: Jesus called the disciples by the lakeshore

L: They left their families and jobs to follow Jesus.

P: Lord, give us the courage to follow you all of our lives. AMEN.

RELIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE

L: We light this candle as a symbol of God's love for us and our love for one another. (*Relight the last purple candle.*)

P: For the Lord rejoices over us with gladness and renews us in his love. He exults over us with singing and turns our shame to praise.

ALL: Come, again, Lord Jesus, come!

OPENING PRAYER

O God, you are our light and our salvation. Living in your presence, we have nothing to fear. Open our hearts to your word this day. As we hear the story of the call of the first disciples, make us ready to follow Jesus on whatever path he leads us. Cast aside our fears and doubts and teach us to trust wholly in you. For we ask this in Jesus' Name, AMEN.

* HYMN I Surrender All UMH 354 (v. 1-3)

BLESSING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS – DOXOLOGY

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE A Mustard Seed of Faith

JOYS AND CONCERNS - PASTORAL PRAYER

(The Lord's Prayer "trespass")

SELECTED SCRIPTURE Jonah 3:1-5, Mark 1:14-20

MESSAGE Creativity in Connection

* HYMN I Surrender All UMH 354 (v. 4 & 5)

COMMISSION & BLESSING

PASTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

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BIBLE STUDY: Follow Me

Read Mark 1:14-20

Define “disciple.”

What does it mean to follow Jesus? How are disciples called to be followers?

What role does surrender play in the life of a disciple? What role does self-denial play in discipleship?

Do you make a distinction between being a Christian and being a disciple? [Unfortunately, many see themselves as Christians, but are hesitant to see themselves as disciples.]

Why might a person be reluctant to claim the label disciple, but not Christian? [To many, being a disciple seems loftier, more holy, more like Jesus than they are willing to give themselves credit for.]

What holds you back from being more of a follower of Jesus? (Time, schedule, stage of life, fear of losing control, etc.)

Look back to the study from the last two weeks. How does baptism become the launching point of our discipleship journey? How is the Lord’s Supper the nourishing meal of the discipleship journey?

What might this say about the need to partake in the Lord’s Supper consistently? [We can take Communion weekly (or even daily).]

While baptism is a non-repeatable act, we can and are encouraged to participate in “Remembering Your Baptism” services.]

CLOSING PRAYER

God of death and Resurrection, you continue to call us to self-denial and to live in the light of the Resurrection. Give us the eyes to see where you are calling us to dream new dreams, surrender our goals for yours, and bless others instead of thinking only of being blessed. Empower us to follow you wherever you call us. Amen.