



christ lutheran hellertown

You are welcome here.

Come join the journey.

September 20, 2020

Worship Service
God's Work, Our Hands

10 a.m.

Welcome to worship today.

Welcome to this real live community of Faith, Christ Lutheran Church!

We hope that your virtual presence among us this morning will enliven your spirit.

We are glad and grateful to have you worshipping with us.

“Our view of others is often not so much one of factual observation as much as subjective perspective, We see things not as they are, but as we are.”

Coached by Jesus, pg 17. Nancy Nelson

Prelude

“Arioso” - J. S. Bach

“Here I Am, Lord” - Daniel L. Schutte

Welcome

No matter who you are or where you are on your journey,
you are welcome here!

We are gathered and ready and aware of God's presence

Chime

Silence

Prayer

Gathering Song

“Softly and Tenderly” ~ ELW 608

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

First Reading: Jonah 3:10--4:11

Ryan Salmon

The Ninevites were enemies of the Jewish people. Jonah was called by God to proclaim a word of forgiveness to the Ninevites. After Jonah's short prophetic word to the Ninevites, in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah, God's Prophet objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a bush that was providing him shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: God said, “You, Jonah, are in a huff about a shade tree, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?”

¹⁰When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] 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.

^{4:1}But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

⁹But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Help us God, as we seek to interpret what this means for our lives.

Message

Message Song

“Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks to the Risen Lord” ~ WOV 671

Prayers

Angela Drake

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. We begin with our own personal silent prayers. *A brief silence.*

Generous God, you make the last first, and the first last. Where this gospel challenges the church, equip it for its works of service. Strengthen those who suffer for Christ. Guide us as we meet challenges which we face for you.

God of love, **we will be your light in the world.**

Creating God, sun and wind, bushes and worms, cattle and great cities, streams and mighty oceans, mountains and hills — nothing in creation is outside your concern. In your mercy, guide us to find ways that we may use to tend to it all. Give us a spirit of generosity toward all you have made.

God of love, **we will be your light in the world.**

Gracious God, bring peace to places of conflict and violence in homes, communities, countries, and the world. Bless the work of negotiators, peacekeepers, and development workers. Inspire leaders with creativity and wisdom so that they will promote ways of peace and show your love and respect for all human beings. We will support those leaders.

God of love, **we will be your light in the world.**

Loving God, reveal yourself to all in need, as you are gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, ready to relent from punishing. Accompany judges and lawyers, victims of crime and those serving sentences. Give fruitful labor and a livelihood to those seeking work, and guide us as we look for ways to help those who are without jobs in this stressful time.

God of love, **we will be your light in the world.**

Bounteous God, you choose to give generously, even beyond our expectations. Grant life, health, and courage to all who are in need – the disenfranchised, the sick, the lonely, those who mourn the death of loved ones, those without food and shelter. Especially today we pray for *Jim, Mary Ann and Esther, Geoff Baer, Neil McCardle, Margaret Drake, Diane Voron, Timmy Henn, Jr., Andrea & Jerry, Kyle, Rod, Ruth, Linda, Rudy, Hugh, Joanne, Allison, Sean, Courtney, Lorraine, Kay, Cathy, Kristen, Dale Kichline, Lorane & Larry, Debbie Riegel, Wendy, Tony & Karen, Gene Heft, Molly, Carol Mitchell, Joe Kupsky, Teri, Patti Ruth, Baby Silas, Dawn Ward, Doris Icove, Dianne Diehl, Melissa, Donna B., Kathy Kunsman and Megan,*

the Rev. Howard Weidemoyer & Marguerite Dawson in hospice care, and those we name in our hearts. *A brief silence.*

God of love, **we will be your light in the world.**

Finally and together,

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

Closing Hymn

“Great Is the Lord” - Michael W. Smith

Benediction

Dismissal: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coffee Hour