

PEACE

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



August 21, 2022

Preparing for the Journey

Prelude Ann Fessenden
Lyric Suite in Five Movements Opus 96 Thomas Dunhill
Movement III
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Welcome

Opening Words Worship in a Flash (adapted)

One: Come on a journey, a journey of faith! Leave what is familiar

Many: See where God will lead.

One: Put your trust in God, who is our help. Worship the Creator of heaven and earth.

Many: See where God will lead.

Opening Hymn NCH #172 "Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult"

Prayer of Invocation Worship in a Flash

God of promise, we come as your people, rejoicing in the abundance of your love. Give us faith to answer your call. Strengthen us to hope against hope. Guide us into a deep and abiding trust. Lead us on a journey toward wholeness, that we may become your holy people, faithfully doing your will. Amen.

Opening Response Binder #35 "We Will Follow" Traditional Zulu

Children's Time

The Witness of Music Ann Fessenden
"Sweet Hour of Prayer" William Bradbury/arr. Gary Lanier
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Reading:

Luke 5:1-11

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishers had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore.

Then Jesus sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.' Simon answered, 'Teacher, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.' When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful person!' For Simon and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon.

Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.' When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed Jesus.

Following an Ancient Call

By Christine Valtner-Paintner

“What if we could listen
like a great salmon
who goes about its ordinary life
when suddenly something shifts,

It comes not as a thunderous
revelation, but a quiet knowing
you have been preparing all
your life to trust.

The past lived until now no longer
satisfies, but the path ahead
seems thousands of miles
long, and your womb is heavy.

There is no refusing this ancient call,
and to know ourselves as not alone,
but part of generations before us who,
like the salmon, share in this inheritance.

You now hear only the rush of energy
That comes with starting the long
Return home and the pull in the
Blood which cannot be ignored.

I like to imagine the salmon
swimming across the ocean
(as if that weren't daunting enough)
and after that endless voyage

it must face the mouth of a mighty river.
Did she hesitate, even for a moment?
Does he want to turn back to less turbulent waters?
But there is something ripening in their bellies.

Perhaps your list of pressing tasks is still long,
Leave it there fluttering in the breeze,
Uncrossed, undone, unfinished,
To do the only thing you can do

which is to swim,
To be carried by the waves and tide
and to know when to let the current carry you,
and when to fight it with all your strength,

and to know even this yes will
demand more than you were willing
to give: your life for the new birth,
what you think you know for

the ancient call home.

For the wisdom contained in these holy words, we give thanks. Amen

Sermon Rev. Dr. Wendy Bruner

Hymn Binder #17 "The Summons"

Joys and Concerns

Prayer

Creator, who art in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kin-dom come, your 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 yours is the kin-dom, and the power,
and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

How shall we join God's work in the world?

Gracious God, we give thanks and ask your blessings on the many and diverse gifts we
bring to join you in your work in the world.

Closing Hymn NCH #173 "You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore"

Benediction

Postlude "Laudation" Gilbert Martin
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