



**The United Church of Bethel**  
**An Open, Affirming Congregation of the UCC/UUA**  
**January 17th, 2021**

**Tom Harty – Pastor**  
**Becky Kondi- Keyboard & Vocals, Larry Noble – Guitar & Vocals,**  
**Seth Stoddard Technical Director**

**♠= Please Stand If you Are Able**  
**All Prayers and Service Music are Found in the Folders in the Music Racks**

**Centering & Prelude**  
**Welcome and Announcements**

**Introit**

**Greeting and Responsive Call to Worship**

**L** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**P** **And also with you.**

**L** Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

**It is right to give him thanks and praise**

We gather to respond to the call of God's love

**Thankful that someone cared enough to share this good news with us.**

May we be compassionate enough to share this divine presence with others.

**Love, when shared, is not divided but multiplied.**

Love, given away, is not diminished but expanded.

**May our gathering beckon and welcome those near and far**

**to know the love of this divine presence.**

Let us worship God!

**Invocation and Lord's Prayer**

**♠ Hymn NCH 497 Guide My Feet**

**Prayer of Confession**

Holy One, what a blessing and privilege we share  
here in this sacred space and among this loving community.

**But, like Jonah, we sometimes are jealous of what we share here.**

We know that others are longing and thirsting for what we know and experience.  
Forgive us our reluctance to open our doors,  
open our hearts to others; some like us, some not.  
**We repent of our hesitations and unwillingness  
to witness to those we have considered strangers and even enemies  
for fear they just might become friends. Amen.**

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

The one who calls us to this place  
calls us to reconciliation through grace.  
God will not deny a repentant heart or an open spirit.  
Know that you are forgiven  
and walk in the new way that is made known to you in God's love. **Amen**

### **Passing of the Peace**

**First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5,10**

**Psalm: 62 5-12**

Refrain: Trust God at All Times O People

✦ **Gloria Patri**

**Epistle: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31**

**Choral Anthem NCH 451 Be Now My Vision**

✦ **Gospel Mark 1:14-20**

✦ **Hymn NCH 448 Take My Life, God, Let it Be**

**Sermon**

**Joys and Concerns**

**Pastoral Prayer**

Choral Response: Hear Our Prayer O Lord.

**Offering**

✦ **Doxology & Prayer of Dedication**

✦ **Hymn NCH 472 Precious Lord, Take My Hand**

✦ **Benediction**

✦ **Choral Benediction**

**Postlude**

(Please remain seated for a period of quiet meditation and appreciation for the music our worship team provides.)

*Whoever you are, Wherever you are on life's journey, You are welcome here.*

*Our Faith is 2000 Years Old; Our Thinking is Not.*

## FIRST READING

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, "Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

When God saw what they 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.

## PSALM

**Psalm 62:5-12**

Trust God at All Times O' People

5 For God alone my soul waits in silence,  
for my hope is from him.

6 He alone is my rock and my salvation,  
my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

7 On God rests my deliverance and my  
honor;

my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.

8 Trust in him at all times, O people;

pour out your heart before him;

God is a refuge for us.

Trust God at All Times O' People

9 Those of low estate are but a breath,

those of high estate are a delusion;

in the balances they go up;

they are together lighter than a breath.

10 Put no confidence in extortion,

and set no vain hopes on robbery;

if riches increase, do not set your heart on  
them.

11 Once God has spoken;

twice have I heard this:

that power belongs to God,

12 and steadfast love belongs to you, O  
Lord.

For you repay to all

according to their work.

Trust God at All Times O' People

## EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 7:29–31

I mean, brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

## GOSPEL READING

Mark 1:14–20

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

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