

January 21, 2024
Third Sunday after Epiphany

PREWORSHIP MUSIC

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Mr. Kevin Crone

(Please stand in body and/or spirit)

CALL TO WORSHIP – Based on Psalm 62:5-8

Pastor: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

Congregation: You are our Mighty Rock. We will not be shaken.

Pastor: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

Congregation: You are our hope. We place our trust in you.

Pastor: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

Congregation: You are our refuge. We rest in your abiding love.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

All people: O God, you are our light and salvation. Living in your presence, we have nothing to fear. Open our hearts to your word this day. As we hear you call Jonah's to go to Ninevah and the call of the first disciples, make us ready to follow you, O God, on whatever path you would lead us. Cast aside our fears and doubts and teach us to trust wholly in you. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

HYMN

O Jesus, I Have Promised

Blue Chalice Hymnal, #612

CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor: Even though we promise to follow our Lord, we know that our lives do not always reflect God's intention. So please join me in the prayer of confession, printed in the bulletin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All people: O Lord, we listen to the stories of the call of the disciples and find them interesting but unrealistic. When we look at our own lives, we believe that we could not leave everything to follow someone we did not know. We have many responsibilities and ties which keep us from following. But God, you are persistent and understand our confusion and doubts. Even so, you continue to call us to be in ministry and mission in the world. It may not mean leaving everything behind, but it does mean being willing to serve wherever you call us. That's hard. We want to place conditions on service, and usually those conditions are "if we have time," "if we have energy," or "if we can just try serving for a little while to see how it all works out". Still God, you call to each of us. Discipleship is difficult. Forgive us, patient and persistent Lord, for the

References

- The Prayer of Invocation and Prayer of Confession were written by Nancy Townley for: **WORSHIP CONNECTION: JANUARY 21, 2024**; Ministry Matters. (adapted by Pastor Laura)
- The Offering Invitation and Prayer of Dedication are from: **The Waiting: Service Prayers for the Third Sunday after Epiphany** and were written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ.

