



**The First Presbyterian Church of Potsdam
January 24, 2021
Third Sunday in Epiphany**

THOUGHT FOR REFLECTION

“I would not have you descend into your own dream. I would have you be a conscious citizen of this terrible and beautiful world.” – *Ta-Nehisi Coates, Between the World and Me*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*Please join in and speak in unison all **bolded** parts.

CALL TO WORSHIP (*From When We Gather, A Book of Prayers for Worship, James G. Kirk*)

One: For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from the Lord.

Many: God only is my rock and my salvation; I shall not be shaken.

One: Trust in the Lord at all times, O people; pour out your heart before God.

Many: Our trust is in the Lord. We worship God's name.

Many: Let us worship God!

GATHERING PRAYER (*From When We Gather, A Book of Prayers for Worship, James G. Kirk*)

You are our rock and our strength, O God, and in you rests our deliverance. You defend us in the midst of adversity; you protect us from ultimate harm. You humble the mighty with acts that manifest your transcendent power; the lowly you comfort with your tender embrace. We gather this day, saved by your mercy. Hear now our praises as we herald your greatness.

OPENING HYMN

“How Firm a Foundation”

#463(see PDF)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*From Liturgies from Below: 462 acts of worship, Claudio Carvalhaes*)

God of Life, You own our lives but as human beings we do not respect life. Life is so easily being taken by our hands. We don't live as how you want us to live, as how you create the clouds in the sky. They may have different shapes, different directions, but they live in harmony and fulfill the sky beautifully. That is how we are supposed to live. We come from a different part of the world, different directions of life. Forgive us, God of Life.

ASSURAGE OF GRACE

ANTHEM

SCRIPTURE READING

Jonah 3:1-5

The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²“Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” ³So 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. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

Mark 1:16-20

¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

SERMON

“God Pursues Us” - with Rev. Dr. Shaun Whitehead

HYMN

“Seek Ye First”

#175 (see PDF)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

Ground of all being, Mother of Life,
Father of the Universe,
your name is sacred, beyond speaking.
May we know your presence,
may your longings be our longings in heart and in action.
May there be food today for the human family
and for the whole earth community.
Forgive us the falseness of what we have done
as we forgive those who are untrue to us.
Do not forsake us in our times of conflict
but lead us to new beginnings.
For the light of life, the vitality of life
and the glory of life are yours
now and forever. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”

#182 (see PDF)

BENEDICTION AND POSTLUDE

Thank you very much for joining us in today's remote service.
May God's health and peace find you in these uncertain times.

Worship Leader: Rev. Dr. Shaun Whitehead, University Chaplain, St. Lawrence University

Music Leader: Dr. Keilor Kastella

Technical Assistance: Renee Stauffer

Clerk of Session: Suzanne Waters

Session Members: Terry de la Vega, Alicia Newcombe, and Renee Stauffer

The First Presbyterian Church

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