



UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Albany, OR

Order of Worship
September 13, 2020

Prelude | Adagio from Sonata in F Minor, Op. 65, No. 1

by Felix Mendelssohn

*Allow the prelude to prepare your hearts and minds for worship; to be still and know that God is God.
We are claimed by Christ in the waters of baptism; the light of Christ shines in our lives and in the world.*

Welcome & Call to Worship

Hymn 825 | Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

Swing low, sweet char - i - ot, com-ing for to car-ry me home.

Swing low, sweet char - i - ot, com-ing for to car-ry me home. *Fine*

1 I looked o-ver Jor-dan, and what did I see com-ing for to car-ry me home?
2 If you get there be - fore I do, com-ing for to car-ry me home,
3 The bright - est day that ev - er I saw, com-ing for to car-ry me home,
4 I'm some-times up and some-times down, com-ing for to car-ry me home,

to Refrain
A band of an-gels com-ing af-ter me, com-ing for to car-ry me home. O,
tell all my friends I'm com - ing too, com-ing for to car-ry me home. O,
when Je - sus washed my sins a - way, com-ing for to car-ry me home. O,
but still my soul feels heaven-ly bound, com-ing for to car-ry me home. O,

Unison Prayer

Mary Stevens

God, you call us, and sometimes we act busy. You call us, and sometimes we just say, "No."

We know that we aren't expected to do everything, but we often forget that you call us to be ourselves in the places where our very self is what is most needed. So give us the grace to say "Yes" to your call.

May our lives proclaim your good truth—that love is stronger than hate, and mercy is greater than vengeance. Amen.

Scripture Reading | Jonah 1:1-17; 3:1—4:11

¹⁻² One day long ago, GOD's Word came to Jonah, Amittai's son: "Up on your feet and on your way to the big city of Nineveh! Preach to them. They're in a bad way and I can't ignore it any longer."

³ But Jonah got up and went the other direction to Tarshish, running away from GOD. He went down to the port of Joppa and found a ship headed for Tarshish. He paid the fare and went on board, joining those going to Tarshish—as far away from GOD as he could get.

⁴⁻⁶ But GOD sent a huge storm at sea, the waves towering. The ship was about to break into pieces. The sailors were terrified. They called out in desperation to their gods. They threw everything they were carrying overboard to lighten the ship. Meanwhile, Jonah had gone down into the hold of the ship to take a nap. He was sound asleep. The captain came to him and said, "What's this? Sleeping! Get up! Pray to your god! Maybe your god will see we're in trouble and rescue us."

⁷ Then the sailors said to one another, "Let's get to the bottom of this. Let's draw straws to identify the culprit on this ship who's responsible for this disaster." So they drew straws. Jonah got the short straw.

⁸ Then they grilled him: "Confess. Why this disaster? What is your work? Where do you come from? What country? What family?"

⁹ He told them, "I'm a Hebrew. I worship GOD, the God of heaven who made sea and land."

¹⁰ At that, the men were frightened, really frightened, and said, "What on earth have you done!" As Jonah talked, the sailors realized that he was running away from GOD.

¹¹ They said to him, "What are we going to do with you—to get rid of this storm?" By this time the sea was wild, totally out of control.

¹² Jonah said, "Throw me overboard, into the sea. Then the storm will stop. It's all my fault. I'm the cause of the storm. Get rid of me and you'll get rid of the storm."

¹³ But no. The men tried rowing back to shore. They made no headway. The storm only got worse and worse, wild and raging.

¹⁴ Then they prayed to GOD, "O GOD! Don't let us drown because of this man's life, and don't blame us for his death. You are GOD. Do what you think is best."

¹⁵ They took Jonah and threw him overboard. Immediately the sea was quieted down.

¹⁶ The sailors were impressed, no longer terrified by the sea, but in awe of GOD. They worshiped GOD, offered a sacrifice, and made vows.

¹⁷ Then GOD assigned a huge fish to swallow Jonah. Jonah was in the fish's belly three days and nights.

³⁻² Next, GOD spoke to Jonah a second time: "Up on your feet and on your way to the big city of Nineveh! Preach to them. They're in a bad way and I can't ignore it any longer."

³ This time Jonah started off straight for Nineveh, obeying GOD's orders to the letter. Nineveh was a big city, very big—it took three days to walk across it.

⁴ Jonah entered the city, went one day's walk and preached, "In forty days Nineveh will be smashed."

⁵ The people of Nineveh listened, and trusted God. They proclaimed a citywide fast and dressed in burlap to show their repentance. Everyone did it—rich and poor, famous and obscure, leaders and followers.

⁶⁻⁹ When the message reached the king of Nineveh, he got up off his throne, threw down his royal robes, dressed in burlap, and sat down in the dirt. Then he issued a public proclamation throughout Nineveh, authorized by him and his leaders: "Not one drop of water, not one bite of food for man, woman, or animal, including your herds and flocks! Dress them all, both

people and animals, in burlap, and send up a cry for help to God. Everyone must turn around, turn back from an evil life and the violent ways that stain their hands. Who knows? Maybe God will turn around and change his mind about us, quit being angry with us and let us live!"

¹⁰ God saw what they had done, that they had turned away from their evil lives. He *did* change his mind about them. What he said he would do to them he didn't do.

⁴ ¹⁻² Jonah was furious. He lost his temper. He yelled at GOD, "GOD! I knew it—when I was back home, I knew this was going to happen! That's why I ran off to Tarshish! I knew you were sheer grace and mercy, not easily angered, rich in love, and ready at the drop of a hat to turn your plans of punishment into a program of forgiveness!"

³ "So, GOD, if you won't kill them, kill *me!* I'm better off dead!"

⁴ GOD said, "What do you have to be angry about?"

⁵ But Jonah just left. He went out of the city to the east and sat down in a sulk. He put together a makeshift shelter of leafy branches and sat there in the shade to see what would happen to the city.

⁶ GOD arranged for a broad-leafed tree to spring up. It grew over Jonah to cool him off and get him out of his angry sulk. Jonah was pleased and enjoyed the shade. Life was looking up.

⁷⁻⁸ But then God sent a worm. By dawn of the next day, the worm had bored into the shade tree and it withered away. The sun came up and God sent a hot, blistering wind from the east. The sun beat down on Jonah's head and he started to faint. He prayed to die: "I'm better off dead!"

⁹ Then God said to Jonah, "What right do you have to get angry about this shade tree?" Jonah said, "Plenty of right. It's made me angry enough to die!"

¹⁰⁻¹¹ GOD said, "What's this? How is it that you can change your feelings from pleasure to anger overnight about a mere shade tree that you did nothing to get? You neither planted nor watered it. It grew up one night and died the next night. So, why can't I likewise change what I feel about Nineveh from anger to pleasure, this big city of more than 120,000 childlike people who don't yet know right from wrong, to say nothing of all the innocent animals?"

Special Music | I've Got Peace like a River

Spiritual/Mark Hayes

Sermon | Fight or Flight?

Rev. Dr. Brandon Lewis

Song of Reflection 399 |

God Welcomes All 399

God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;

God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

The image shows a musical score for the song 'God Welcomes All'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The first system has the lyrics 'God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;'. The second system has the lyrics 'God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.'. The music is in 4/4 time and the key signature has one sharp (F#).

This "short song," as the Iona Community calls it, can be especially effective as a means of setting a welcoming tone for a service (especially an ecumenical one). Like most such songs, it needs to be sung several times, adding and improvising harmony with each repetition.

Prayers of the People and 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 debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Hymn 700 | I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

1 I'm gon-na live so (live so)
2 I'm gon-na work so (work so)
3 I'm gon-na pray so (pray so)
4 I'm gon-na sing so (sing so)
God can use me an - y -
where, Lord, an - y - time!
(an - y - time!)
I'm gon-na
I'm gon-na
I'm gon-na
I'm gon-na
live so (live so)
work so (work so)
pray so (pray so)
sing so (sing so)
God can use me an - y -
where, Lord, (my Lord,) an - y - time!
(an - y - time!)

Benediction

Postlude | Great is the Lord

Michael W. Smith & Deborah D. Smith/arr. Mark Hayes

Offering Our Gifts to God

Even though we are not able to pass the offering plate on Sunday mornings, your generosity will continue to be important to United Presbyterian Church. We will continue to pay staff, keep our facilities running, and try our best to creatively live out our ministry and mission. It is important to note that we have halted any spending that isn't critical right now, and we are continuing to be good stewards of our money as we expect an interruption to normal weekly giving. Please, as you are able, continue to give—either **online** or you may mail a check to the church (330 5th Ave SW, Albany OR 97321).