

**BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**10:30 a.m. Sunday 24 January 2021**

**Third Sunday after the Epiphany**

(2)

**ENTRANCE**

Prelude and Lighting of Candles

Announcements

**Greeting^:** For God alone we wait in silence,  
**for our hope is from the Lord.**  
Power belongs to God;  
**and to the Lord belongs steadfast love.**  
*(Psalm 62)*

Praise Choruses: 2101 "Two Fishermen"  
2129 "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

Opening Prayer\*:

**God of all nations, we praise you that in Christ  
the barriers that have separated humanity are torn down  
Yet we confess our slowness to open our hearts and minds  
to those of other lands, tongues, and races.  
Deliver us from the sins of fear and prejudice,  
that we may move toward the day  
when all are truly one in Jesus Christ. Amen.**  
*(Ruth Duck, U.S.A., 20th Cent.)*

Opening Hymn: 2130 "The Summons"

**PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE**

Prayer for Illumination\*\*:

**Holy God,  
author of the Word made flesh,**

**to whom belongs both the first Word and the last,  
open us to your Spirit,  
that as scripture is spoken  
and your Word proclaimed,  
we may be comforted, convinced, and changed  
to the glory of Jesus Christ,  
in whose name we pray. Amen.**

*(© 2004 Brian Wren)*

First Lesson: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalter: 787 Psalm 62:5-12

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Hymn of Preparation: 344 "Lord, You Have Come  
to the Lakeshore"

Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

Sermon: "Not me!"

Affirmation of Faith: 889 "Affirmation from 1 Timothy 2:5-6;  
1:15; 3:16"

Joys, Concerns, Prayers

The Peace: Let us offer one another signs  
of reconciliation and love  
The peace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

**THANKSGIVING**

Invitation: As forgiven and reconciled people,  
let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.

Offering/Offertory

(3)

Doxology: 95 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Prayer of Thanksgiving\*:

**Almighty and most merciful God,  
from you comes every good and perfect gift.  
We give you praise and thanks for all your mercies.  
Your goodness has created us,  
your bounty has sustained us,  
your discipline has chastened us,  
your patience has borne with us.  
Give us a heart to love and serve you,  
and enable us to show our thankfulness  
for all your goodness and mercy  
by giving up ourselves to your service,  
and cheerfully submitting in all things  
to your blessed will;  
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**  
*(The Book of Worship 1965, Alt.)*

The Lord's Prayer: 895

### **SENDING FORTH**

Closing Hymn: 438 "Forth in Thy Name, O Lord"

Blessing\*: May the God of hope fill you  
with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that you may abound in hope  
by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**  
*(Romans 15:13)*

### **Extinguishing of Candles and Postlude**

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\*\*Worship and Song, Abingdon Press, © 2011, p 33

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