



# Valley Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

Dear Friend in Christ,

Today we are going to consider the messages that God is sending to each one of us. God sent Jonah messages. Jonah reacted. Thus, the story of Jonah can be seen as a model of the way we react to God's messages that are sent into our lives. Messages that we can accept or reject.

If you have not had the opportunity to join us for worship, I encourage you to do so this Sunday. The following phone numbers and links are the ones to dial between 10:15am and 10:30am. You can join in one of two ways:

**By telephone (audio only)**

1 (312) 626 6799

Meeting ID: 867 5713 3623

**By video with computer, tablet, or smartphone – click the link below**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86757133623>

(if you need a live link you can go to the homepage of our website at [www.vccbhm.org](http://www.vccbhm.org))

I look forward to being with you this Sunday as we set sail to journey with Jonah.

You are special to me. God Bless You, Edd

# Valley Christian Church

## Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

August 2, 2020

### PRELUDE

*"Trust and Obey"*

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Behold, we are a people like Jonah in the big fish, who dwell in darkness.  
People: We live in the darkness of sin and fear.  
Leader: O God, illumine our darkness by the light of your Son and Savior Jesus Christ.  
People: Then we shall see and be radiant.  
Leader: Come, O God, and shine your light on us in this service of worship.  
People: Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

### HYMN OF PRAISE

*"Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult"*

*Jesus calls us o'er the tumult  
of our life's wild, restless sea;  
day by day his sweet voice soundeth,  
saying "Christian, follow me."*

*In our joys and in our sorrows,  
days of toil and hours of ease,  
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,  
"Christian, love me more than these."*

*Jesus calls us: by thy mercies,  
Savior, may we hear thy call,  
give our hearts to thine obedience,  
serve and love thee best of all.*

### INVOCATION

God of faith, God of hope, God of love, grant us this day a fresh vision of your presence in this world. Help us to see all the places you are at work. And having seen, O Lord, send us out into the world to share your work of love. Meet with us today and guide our minds and our hearts to follow you. Amen.

### SCRIPTURE

*Jonah 1:1-17*

### MEDITATION

"Jonah"  
See Insert for Meditation

### HYMN

*"Take My Life"*

*Take my life, and let it be  
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;  
Take my moments and my days,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.*

*Take my voice, and let me sing  
Unto God my praise I bring;  
Take my lips, and let them be  
Filled with messages from Thee,  
Filled with messages from Thee.*

*Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
At Thy feet its treasure-store.  
Take myself, and I will be  
Ever, only, all for Thee,  
Ever, only, all for Thee.*

### SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

Our hearts and minds center on you at this time, living God.

We remember those who need your attention:

- Those experiencing ill health.
- Those experiencing loss of love ones.
- Those experiencing loneliness.

We remember our neighbors:

- Those who hunger
- Those who fight addiction
- Those who need shelter
- We remember our leaders:
- Those who make hard decisions.
- Those who try to do what is best for people.
- We remember our world:
- Those who are facing injustice.
- Those who are orphaned.

May our thirst for peace, justice and righteousness extend beyond our church. Hear our prayers O God. Amen.

**CALL TO  
COMMUNION**

Our world is filled with lonely people. Help us to find them and let them know there is room for them. Know there is room for them at the table of the Lord.

**COMMUNION  
HYMN**

*"Have Thy Own Way Lord"*

*Have Thine own way Lord*

*Have Thine own way*

*Thou art the potter I am the clay*

*Mold me and make me after Thy will*

*While I am waiting yielded and still*

*Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!*

*Search me and try me, Savior today!*

*Wash me just now, Lord, wash me just now,*

*as in thy presence humbly I bow.*

*Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!*

*Wounded and weary, help me I pray!*

*Power, all power, surely is thine!*

*Touch me and heal me, Savior divine!*

**COMMUNION  
PRAYER**

Pray together the Lord's Prayer

**HOLY  
COMMUNION**

Partake of the holy communion  
(Bread, juice or whatever is available to you)

**WORDS OF  
INSTITUTION**

Hear the words of Jesus when he said, "Take eat and take drink."

**SHARING OUR  
OFFERING  
WITH GOD**

Share your church offering with the church by mail or bring it by the church office. Thank you for your love gifts.

**OFFERTORY  
PRAYER**

We offer up to you, O God, these our gifts as tokens of our devotion to you and as signs that we look to you and not to material goods for the fullness of our lives. Amen.

**BENEDICTION**

We are a people involved in God's mission of transforming the world through Jesus Christ. To bring light in place of darkness, to bring peace in place of war and violence, and to bring love in place of fear and hatred. We are deeply involved in this exciting task. With courage, let us face this new week of life knowing that God's spirit is with us. Amen.



WHOEVER WILL,  
LET HIM TAKE THE

# Water of Life

FREELY.

MEDITATION  
Sunday, August 2, 2020

“Jonah”

All of us are probably more familiar with Jonah than we are with any of the other Old Testament prophets. The reason is probably because of Jonah's being swallowed by the big fish. It may surprise you to know that only three verses out of the four chapters of Jonah relate to the big fish incident and the big fish story is really not the major theme of Jonah's message. For me the major theme of Jonah's message is that he tried to run away from God. The story opens with God calling Jonah as he has called other prophets to a mission. God called Jonah to go to Nineveh, a Gentile city, to help them change their ways of sinful living. Jonah says no and sails off on a ship in the opposite direction toward Tarshish, where the scripture tells us he hoped to escape from the presence of God.

Now people have all sorts of reasons for wanting to escape God's presence. After all, it can be embarrassing at times to have God around, seeing and hearing what we are thinking and saying and doing. Jonah wanted to escape God, for God was asking him as a Jew to share the word of hope and life with the Ninevites who are Gentiles. Do you get the picture? Here is Jonah, prophet of God, a Hebrew, and therefore, an inheritor of God's promises being asked to go to Gentiles and ask them to repent.

So, Jonah is running away from God. But what Jonah did not know is that God is not that easily brushed off, and so while he is asleep down in the ship, a storm is breaking loose on the deck. At God's command, a hurricane comes and the ship's crew runs around the deck throwing things overboard and praying at the same time to their gods to save the ship. The ship's captain discovers Jonah asleep and wakes him up and tells him to start praying.

(over)

The sailors, following the old superstition of casting lots to decide who might be the cause of the storm, determine that the person is Jonah. And so they want to know who he is and where he is from.

Jonah realizes as he explains that he is a Hebrew and that he worships the Lord God of heaven, who made sea and land, and that he is the reason for the storm. Jonah realizes out of his disobedience to God, that God has brought on the storm. So, because of the trouble he has caused, he volunteers to be thrown overboard to save the ship. The sailors obey his wishes and throw him into the sea where he is swallowed by a big fish.

Now all of this is happening because Jonah is running away from God. Jonah learned as we all must learn that our attempts at running away from God just make life harder. We come in conflict with what God wants us to do. Then disobedience to God leads to depression; so that we do not like ourselves, or God, or anyone else! Maybe the greatest of all insights we need to ponder in this story is that the one from whom Jonah was really running away, was not God at all! It was himself. He was unhappy with who he was, and attempted to make God the scapegoat! Who of us wants to take the blame for our faults? But God would have none of that with Jonah or with us.

The Christian faith will not have us run from some responsibilities that we need to carry out for the glory of God. The Christian faith will not permit us to fall asleep, as did Jonah, while the storm is raging all around us. We too need to be shaken awake in our journey through life, and Jesus keeps waking us up. He calls us to be involved, be vocal, be spiritually alive so that we can demonstrate Christianity in our lifestyles. He encourages us not to run away and instead follow him back home to God. May we take the journey of life with Him.