

JASPER UNITED CHURCH

January 22, 2023

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Mission Statement

“Our mission is to worship God and deepen our Christian faith. We strive to seek justice, be an inclusive, caring and accepting community, and to be stewards of God’s world.”

I'd Say Yes, God If I Knew What You Wanted

Nancy C. Reeves

WE GATHER

Prelude

Welcome

Territorial Acknowledgement

Announcements

Celebrations and Remembrances

Settling Moment Gather Us In

MV 7

In the quiet of your listening, you are invited to rest your thoughts and prepare your hearts and minds to worship God.

Call to Worship (Responsive)

Jesus comes along side us and calls us by name:

“People of Jasper United Church, follow me.”

A simple call. A hard call.

Because following requires leaving.

And we look around to see who else Jesus could be talking to.

And we look around to see the trappings of the life we know.

It’s hard to leave our nets and walk away from the lake.

But we have come this far, to this place,

where we can listen and be transformed.

Written by Joanna Harader, posted on Spacious Faith. Used with permission.

Lighting the Christ Candle

In this season of growing light, we remind ourselves that every moment is Christ-filled. In all moments, dark or bright, ...

we live in the light of Christ!

Opening Hymn: Jesus Call Us

VU 562

Opening Prayer (based on Psalm 27)

God, you are my light, our salvation. You keep us safe in the shelter of your presence. You set us upon a rock safe from rising troubles. You will not let me falter under the words of others, nor my own. You hold me up to see the light. One thing we ask of you, O God, that we might dwell always in your presence. Gather with us, God. Teach us to proclaim your love to others and steady our hearts to follow you, wherever you lead us. Amen

Prayer of Healing (Responsive)

Our prayer of healing is an opportunity to examine all that we have done and all that we have not done.

God, you call us to the celebration of life, but sometimes our response to leave and follow is delayed. Delayed by our uncertainty, Delayed by our pain. Delayed because we fail to see how we can be part of your vision, thinking we have nothing of value to offer.

Delayed, thinking we should stick with what we know. But still you invite, calling us to the abundance in your love. Inviting us to come and fish with you. (moment of silent reflection)

We ask your healing. Accept now our following. Amen

Words of Assurance

You are God’s own beloved. Your invitation set in the wine of celebration long before this time. Your name is engraved at the banquet table of all creation. **In the extravagance of a love so great, we are called God’s beloved. With God, we follow. We are made whole.**

The Sharing of Peace

Siblings in faith, God heals our brokenness so that we may be reconciled in peace to God, to one another, and to all.

May the Peace of God be always with you. **And also with you.**

(You are invited to share a sign of peace, a nod, a wave, a smile or offer other such fitting gestures with those sitting around you)

Conversation Time

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

God, send to us your Holy Spirit, speak to us your wisdom, and open our hearts to hear your word that our eyes may truly perceive your goodness, the Word made flesh, and we may follow the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:1-4
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23

These are the stories of our faith. **Thanks be to God.**

Reflection

Hymn: Christ Has No Body Now but Yours VU 171

GOD NURTURES – WE RESPOND

Mission & Service

Offering Invitation

Offering Hymn: Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands VU 537

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

WE GO FORTH

Closing Hymn: Will You Come and Follow Me VU 567

Sending Out and Blessing

Postlude

Ministers: All of us by the grace of God

Worship Leader: Rev. Linda McLaren

Musician: Carol Vien