



Looking for the Light, Listening for the Call
January 24, 2021

Prelude

We're Marching to Zion, Martha Main

We are Called to Worship - We gather to respond to the call of God's love thankful that someone cared enough to share this good news with us. May we be compassionate enough to share this divine presence with others. Love, when shared, is not divided but multiplied. Love, given away, is not diminished but expanded. May our gathering beckon and welcome those near and far to know the love of this divine presence.+

Gathering Prayer - From deep within us we know of a loving presence. All around us we see glory, beauty, life, and light. In this moment of worship may that loving presence grow deeper, may our awareness of the divine presence around us grow more intense. May we, wherever we are gathered, learn to pay more attention to God, who loves us at all times and in all places. God, of love and life, in this moment of prayer be more and more in us that we might live more and more in you. Amen.+

A Reading from the Psalms

Psalm 62:5-12 (NRSV)

- ⁵ For God alone my soul waits in silence, honor;
for my hope is from him. my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.
- ⁶ He alone is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall not be shaken.
- ⁷ On God rests my deliverance and my
- ⁸ Trust in him at all times, O people;
pour out your heart before him;

God is a refuge for us.
Selah

if riches increase, do not set your heart
on them.

⁹ Those of low estate are but a breath,
those of high estate are a delusion;
in the balances they go up;
they are together lighter than a breath.

¹⁰ Put no confidence in extortion,
and set no vain hopes on robbery;

¹¹ Once God has spoken;
twice have I heard this:
that power belongs to God,

¹² and steadfast love belongs to you,
O Lord.
For you repay to all
according to their work.

Song 1

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant, YouTube

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

A Time of Prayer: *You are welcome to send prayer requests to Pastor Sarah. Spend a few moments connecting with God and lifting up your prayers.*

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

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.

We Hear God's Word

Mark 1:14-20 (NRSV)

¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

¹⁶ As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake—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.

Jonah 3:1-4:2 (NRSV)

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.

⁶ When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. ⁷Then he had a proclamation made in Nineveh: 'By the decree of the king and his nobles: No human being or animal, no herd or flock, shall taste anything. They shall not feed, nor shall they drink water. ⁸Human beings and animals shall be covered with sackcloth, and they shall cry mightily to God. All shall turn from their evil ways and from the violence that is in their hands. ⁹Who knows? God may relent and change his mind; he may turn from his fierce anger, so that we do not perish.'

¹⁰ When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD and said, 'O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing.'

Song 2

The Summons, YouTube

Meditation

Casting Wide

Music for Reflection

I Am the Light of the World, Martha Main

We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving

Invitation - Gestures of gratitude are a demonstration that a blessing or benefit has been received. We heard a call, dropped our nets and came to our worship this day to find new life. The gifts we give today are but tokens of the blessings of the new life we live in Christ. Bring your gifts with joy for they remind us of just how blessed we are to know this love that flows so generously from the spirit of God.+

You can mail your offerings to our office. We check the mail regularly.
Zion United Church of Christ

8916 E. Troy Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46239

Or, you can donate through our website through our secure PayPal button at www.zionuccindy.net/donate. Please know that PayPal receives a 2.2% processing fee and a \$0.30 transaction charge. You are able to set up reoccurring, monthly payments.

We Give Thanks – May these gifts, given to these ministries of grace, be a blessing to friends and strangers, those like us and those not, those deserving and those not, for in this way the love of God reaches all of God’s beloved.
Amen.+

Song 3

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus, YouTube

We Are Sent Forth with a Blessing - Now may the One who is faithful to all be with us all as we depart. May we be a blessing to every place we go, until we gather again. Amen.+

Postlude

This Little Light of Mine, Martha Main