

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BOARD MEETING tomorrow night at Merrill's (Green Court 2, 11/201) at 6:52 p.m. for snacks and 7:04 p.m. meeting called to order. All are welcome to attend and sit in on Board meetings.

NEXT CONFIRMATION CLASS meets on next Sunday, January 28, at the home of Jennifer and Rob Chapman from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. David Chaveriat, guest speaker.

THE RENEWAL CENTER

Last Sunday, the latest edition of The Renewal Center's newsletter was passed out with the church bulletin. These newsletters were given to the Trinity congregation by The Renewal Center for the purpose of informing us about the services that The Renewal Center offers for Shanghai's homeless population. The Renewal Center is able to provide shelter, food, clothing, and running water to the homeless people it services because of the charitable works and donations received from individuals and organizations such as the Trinity congregation. Trinity will continue support The Renewal Center, and the Service Committee will happily keep you apprised of the donations that come from your generous offerings.

If you would like more information about the work that The Renewal Center does, or if you would like to know more about how you individually can help, please email Suzanne Byerly (sebyerly@hotmail.com) or find her after church.

The Service Committee and Pastor Elyn MacInnis would also like to thank everyone who recently donated to the children at Granny Han's orphanage. Adam Yiin and Roger Liu ensured the safe arrival of your generous gifts, and the children were so happy to receive them! If you would like to see pictures of the children in their new winter clothes, please find Suzanne Byerly after church.

—Suzanne Byerly, Chair, Service Committee

PRAYER REQUESTS

- For Tom Stanley who is in the USA visiting his father who was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.
- For Erik Paulson concerning his ongoing treatment.
- For Anne Gribble's mother who was in a serious car accident the day before they returned to the States for the Christmas break.
- For little Will, a transplant recipient, who made it home for Christmas, but who now has been diagnosed with a lymphoma. Please pray for parents for whom this is a severe blow.

Electronic Giving or Giving in the USA

Would you prefer to give electronically?

Please see our Treasurer, John Ideker, for details.

根据中华人民共和国的法律，只允许外国护照持有人在场参加。
In accordance with the laws of the People's Republic of China, only foreign passport holders are allowed to attend services here at Trinity Congregation.

Visit us at: TrinityShanghai.org

SERMON NOTES

More reluctant than Amos, more fearful than Jeremiah, less confident than Hosea or Isaiah, Jonah comes to us as one of the most successful OT prophets. While others stand firmly on Israelite soil, preaching to God's chosen people, Jonah is sent away to declare God's Word to a strange people in a foreign land. And the results of his mission are amazingly successful.

Jonah is atypical in the book of the 12 Prophets, for while the others tell history and contain much biographical material, they are largely prophetic in content. The anonymous story of Jonah is a wild tale, with only a tiny portion being prophetic word. Jonah (see 2 Kings 14:25) lived in the vicinity of Galilee when God's call came to him during the 8th-century reign of King Jeroboam II to go to the great Assyrian city of Nineveh.

With those simple facts out of the way, the story begins to unfold, taking different twists and turns along the way. Jonah's call was a conventional one for a prophet, "The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai, saying, Go ..." (1:1). Jonah's response is to go, but not northeast across land to the city of Nineveh. No, Jonah heads in the opposite direction to board a boat in Joppa and goes west.

Too frightened to go prophesy to the Ninevites, Jonah sleeps below deck, oblivious to and unafraid of the storm that is tossing the ship and terrifying the crew on board. When the sailors awaken Jonah from his peaceful sleep, and all determine that it is the presence of Jonah that has put their lives at risk at sea, Jonah, apparently unafraid of the wild, thrashing sea, valiantly invites the crew to throw him overboard. Timid Jonah, who tries to hide from God on board a ship going in the wrong direction rather than journey to Nineveh, now bravely offers himself to the perilous weather. Is Jonah brave, afraid, confused or a fool?

Overboard and in the deep, Jonah is swallowed by a great fish. With time to reflect and little to distract him, Jonah uses this time to repent of his fleeing from God's call. He prays to the Lord and is delivered by God when he is expectorated by the fish onto dry land. But the story does not end on the beach. Jonah returns to Nineveh carrying the message that the Lord has given him. Only partially into the city, the less-than-ardent prophet shares God's message. "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" (v. 4b). That's the sermon. The whole message. Jonah's preaching has no creativity or imagination. Yet it is successful." The people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth" (v. 5). The success of Jonah's mission is obviously not due to the prophet's homiletic expertise. Jonah's preaching results in the belief of the people, their fasting and mourning.

TRINITY CONGREGATION

OF ABUNDANT GRACE

鸿恩

SHANGHAI



THIRD SUNDAY
AFTER THE EPIPHANY

JANUARY 21, 2018, 11 AM

Please remember to silence your smartphone and other devices during the worship service! Thank you!

THE GUIDE TO MORNING WORSHIP

** All who are able may rise to praise God.*

Prelude: Ignatius Banda
Suite Gothique: Prière à Notre-Dame by L. Boëllmann

***Processional Hymn:** *Come, Christians Join to Sing* No. 158

***Call to Worship** Stephen Minister Judy Kim

Leader: For just this hour —

People: Follow me;

Leader: Listen to my word —

People: Follow me;

Leader: Think about your life as my disciple every day —

People: Follow me;

Leader: Pray —

People: Follow me;

Leader: Sing —

People: Follow me;

ALL: Come, let us worship God!

—Inspired by Jonah 3, and written by Carolyn Brown, worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.com.

***Invocation** Pastor John

Welcome and Announcements Pastor Timothy

Old Testament Reading: Jonah 3:1-5,10 Doug Gribble, *Reader*

The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, 'Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.' So 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. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, 'Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!' And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord / **All: Thanks be to God.**

Choral Anthem: "Jonah!" Concordia Men's Ensemble
Meg Ideker, Director; Yifan Shi, Accompanist

***Gospel Reading:** Mark 1:14-20 Pastor John, *Reader*

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.' 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. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fish for people.' And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you Lord Christ.

Sermon: "Jonah and his Escape Room Strategy" Pastor Timothy

***Hymn of Response:** *Breathe on Me, Breath of God* No. 420

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer No. 895

Offering and Offertory

***Hymn before Communion** No. 599

"Break Thou the Bread of Life"

***Offertory Prayer:**

Leader: Let us pray. Merciful God—

***People: Everything in heaven and earth belongs to you. We joyfully release what you have entrusted to us. May these gifts be signs of our whole lives returned to you, dedicated to the healing and united of all creation, through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION



(Want to follow the complete liturgy without the truncated text below? Use your smartphone [in SILENT mode] and go to the website, TrinityShanghai.org. Select "Holy Communion Liturgies," and click on PINK liturgy and follow along.)

Celebrant: The Lord be with you;

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts;

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God;

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise!

Celebrant: It is our duty and delight to everywhere and always offer our praise ... [*celebrant continues*] ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

People (singing): "Sanctus"

Congregation:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Bless - ed is the
One who comes in your name. Ho - san - na in the
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

Celebrant: You indeed are holy, gracious and merciful God.

Everything is filled with your glory. We thank you for your promise and presence which has sustained the faithful ...

[*celebrant continues*] ... we pray for his coming again, even as we cry:

Celebrant sings first; people repeat

Christ has died, Christ is ris - en, Christ will come a - gain! gain!

Celebrant continues ... Through Christ, and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, all honor, glory and praise to you, O God, now and forever.

***People (singing): "Amen"**

Elise Eslinger

Celebrant: We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

People: We who are many are one body,

for we all share in one bread.

[*Ushers will release each row in turn and each row will go to the front by the SIDE aisles, and return by the CENTER aisle. The following instructions may help you feel comfortable as you take communion. First, receive the bread from the server and then either dip it in a bowl with grape juice, or dip it in the cup with wine and then partake and return to your seat. Or, you may receive the bread and partake, and then proceed to the Common Cup in the center which is wine, and drink from it, and return to your seat. Do be afraid to ask a question of the server if you are unsure. No worries!*]

Communion Servers: The Rev. Timothy Merrill, the Rev. John Willison, Stephen Minister Judy Kim, Meg Ideker, Sara Preus

After you have taken Holy Communion, use the remaining time as others commune, to pray and meditate as the organ plays

Affirmation of Faith No. 886

"The World Methodist Social Affirmation"

***Recessional Hymn:** *Rise Up Ye Saints of God* No. 576

***Benediction** Pastor John

Postlude: Ignatius Banda

Suite Gothique: Choral—Menuet, by L. Boëllmann

Worship Leaders

The Rev. Timothy Merrill, the Rev. John Willison,
Stephen Minister Judy Kim

Our musicians: Sara Preus and Ignatius Banda

Acolytes: Masha Doering, Natalie Williamson, Alexandra Cimpian

Greeters: Doug and Anne Gribble

Epiphany banner: Joan Lueth

Communion Bread Provider: Meg Ideker

Set-up, Clean-up & Ushering: Roger Liu, Patrick Carroll, Cailen McNair

Altar Flowers:

Please feel free to contact our pastors:

Pastor Timothy: revtmerrill@aol.com;

Pastor John: jpwillison@yahoo.com;

Stephen Minister Judy: judykim@gmail.com

Weekly News & Updates

Want to receive Trinity emails? Send Pastor Timothy an email at: revtmerrill@aol.com. Or drop your business card in the offering plate.