

**Erwin Presbyterian Church**

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany \* January 28, 2024 \* 11:00 a.m.

105 N. Elm Ave., Erwin, TN 37650 \*423-743-3431\*

erwinpresbyterianchurch.com

**Prelude**  *Sarabande* arr. Joanne S. Buck

Ethan Thomas, organist

**Welcome and Announcements** The Rev. Dr. Ramy Marcos

**Introit** *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* Green Hymnbook #210

**\* Call to Worship (Based on Psalm 62:5-12)**  Keith Whitson

Leader: My soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him.

**All: Truly he is our rock and our salvation; he is our fortress, we will not be shaken.**

Leader: My salvation and my honor depend on God; he is my mighty rock, my refuge.

**All: Trust in him at all times, you people; Praise him, for God is our refuge.**

**\*Hymn**  *All Creatures of Our God and King* Red Hymnbook, #100 v.1, 2, 6

**Call to Confession** Keith Whitson

Leader: Jesus calls to us: change your hearts and change your lives! Repent, and believe the good news. The mercy and forgiveness we have already received enable us to be honest about the places in our lives in need of transformation. Let us confess our sin together.

**Prayer of Confession** Keith Whitson

**All: God of mercy, we confess that we have settled down in Nineveh. We have gotten comfortable in our categories: haves and have-nots, makers and takers, law-abiders and illegals, and the offenders and the innocent.**

**We confess that we are comfortable living under systems of injustice and exploitation. We confess our discomfort in speaking truths that unmask idolatries.**

**Make us ready to follow Jesus, ready to repent, and eager to change our hearts and lives. Call to us again, and show us your mercy. Let us hear your good news again.**

 (*Please take a moment of silent confession)*

**Assurance of Pardon** Keith Whitson

Leader: God desires relationship with us, and reconciliation for all of creation. Jesus comes bearing the good news of forgiveness and transformation. Receive the good news of God’s grace: We are forgiven!

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gloria Patri**  Red Hymnbook, #546

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the**

**Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and**

**ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen**.

**\*The Peace** The Rev. Dr. Ramy Marcos

Pastor: Jesus said, “My peace I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not let them be afraid.” May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

Pastor: Please take a moment to greet one another and share the peace of Christ.

**First Scripture Reading-** Jonah 3:1-5, 10 Keith Whitson

**3** Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time: **2**“Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you.”

**3**Jonah obeyed the word of the Lord and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it. **4**Jonah began by going a day’s journey into the city, proclaiming, “Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown.” **5**The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

**10**When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord **All: Thanks be to God**

**Anthem** *Amazing Grace*

**Prayer for Illumination** The Rev. Dr. Ramy Marcos

**Second Scripture Reading- Mark 1:14-20** The Rev. Dr. Ramy Marcos

**14**After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. **15**“The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

**16**As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. **17**“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” **18**At once they left their nets and followed him.

**19**When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. **20**Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord **All: Thanks be to God**

**Sermon** *The Good News of God* The Rev. Dr. Ramy Marcos

**Introduction**

**First, The Kingdom Is Near**

**Second, Repent and Believe**

**Third, Come, Follow Jesus**

**Conclusion**

**\*Declaration of Faith (The Apostles’ Creed)** Keith Whitson

Leader: Let’s declare our faith.

**All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Prayer of the People**  The Rev. Dr. Ramy Marcos

***Ends with The Lord’s Prayer***

**All: 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.**

**Offering**

***Invitation to the Offering*** Keith Whitson

Leader: Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, who said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

 (*may the ushers move forward and collect the offering*)

***Offertory Music*** *O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing*

***\*Doxology*** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*Red Hymnbook, #544

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise God all creatures here below;**

**Praise God above, ye heavenly host;**

**Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

**\**Prayer of Dedication*** Keith Whitson

Leader: Holy God, these offerings are only a portion of all that you have given us. We gratefully present these gifts and entrust them to your work in this world. May our gifts share the good news of the gospel to those who are in need. May these gifts help unburden those with the heaviest of loads.

**All: Amen.**

**\*Hymn** *O Jesus, I have Promised* Purple Hymnbook, #725

**1 O Jesus, I have promised  to serve you to the end;**

**be now and always near me,  my Master and my Friend;**

**I shall not fear the battle if you are by my side,**

**nor wander from the pathway if Thou wilt be my guide.**

**2 O let me feel you near me! the world is ever near;**

**I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear;**

**my foes are ever near me, around me and within;**

**but, Jesus, draw still nearer, and shield my soul from sin.**

**3 O let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still,**

**above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will;**

**O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;**

**O speak, and make me listen, true guardian of my soul.**

**4 O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you**

**that where you are in glory your servant shall be too.**

**And, Jesus, I have promised  to serve you to the end;**

**now give me grace to follow, my Master and my Friend.**

**\*Benediction** The Rev. Dr. Ramy Marcos

**\*Benediction Response** *Take the Name of Jesus with You***,**

**Take the name of Jesus with you.**

**Child of sorrow, Child of woe.**

**It will joy and comfort give you.**

**Take it then wher-e’er you go.**

**Precious name, O how sweet!**

**Hope of earth and joy of heaven.**

**Precious name, O how sweet!**

**Hope of earth and joy of heaven.**

**Postlude** *Azmon* arr. Don Phillips

**Notes:**

***\*****Responses with an asterisk indicate standing. Please stand as you are able.*

**Sources for Worship Liturgy:** The Confession and Offering prayers are based on *The Presbyterian Outlook*.

**Welcome Visitors**: Welcome! If you are visiting please fill out one of the green visitor’s cards from the pew and put it in the offering plate. We are glad you are here! Hope to see you again soon!

**Announcements**

**Prayer Group** (Wednesday, January 31 at 10 a.m.)

**Choir Practice** (Wednesday, January 31 at 6-7 p.m.)

**Middle Schoolers Grades 5-8** (Sunday, January 28) Informational meeting regarding the Presbyterian USA Middle School Conference at Maryville College, July 17 – 24, 2024

**New Members' Class** (Sunday, February 4, 18): Erwin Presbyterian Church is holding a new members' class to discuss the essential elements of our faith and church membership. If you are interested in becoming a member at Erwin Presbyterian Church, please contact Rev. Marcos.

 **Save the Date - Souper Bowl 2024** (Sunday, February 11) Youth fundraiser immediately following service in the Fellowship Hall. Join in the fun, games, and prizes! If you would like to sign up to bring a food item, there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex or you may contact Ellen Sewell.

**Celebration of Life for Elmer Bain** (Saturday, February 24) Visitation 12-2 p.m. and the funeral will begin at 2 p.m. Lunch will follow in the fellowship hall. If you would like to bring a dish for lunch, please contact Ellen Sewell at 423-220-9169.

**Food Collection ─** The food item for January is instant mashed potatoes.

**Elder of the Month** ─ Sarah Shults

**Contact Information**

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**Office hours** **Mon-Th, Sun:** 8 a.m. - 4p.m. **Mon-Th:** 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.