# Liturgy for Worship with Jonah

# Call to Worship

May the glory of the Lord endure forever;

**may the Lord in rejoice in his works--**

who looks on the earth and it trembles,

**who touches the mountains and they smoke.**

I will sing to Lord as long as I live;

**I will sing praise to God while I have being.**

**May my meditation be pleasing to God,**

**for I rejoice in the Lord.**

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# Hymn – God the Sculptor of the Mountains

# Prayer of Confession

From Jonah 1

*Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah, saying, "Go at once..." But Jonah set out to flee from the presence of the Lord. He went down and found a ship...But the Lord hurled a great wind upon the sea...Then the mariners were afraid. They threw the cargo into the sea. Jonah, meanwhile, had gone down into the hold of the ship and was fast asleep. The captain came and said to him, "What are you doing? Get up and call on your god!"*

*The sailors said to one another, "Come, let us cast lots, so that we may know on whose account tis calamity has come upon us." The lot fell on Jonah. Then they said to him, "Tell us why this calamity has come upon us?" He replied, "I am a Hebrew. I worship the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and dry land." Then they were even more afraid. For the men knew he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord.*

**Lord, the God of heaven who made the sea and the dry land, when there is no dry land to stand on and the sea rages around us, why do we seek our own solutions before we seek you?**

**We do not heed your call. We take ourselves in directions that lead away from you. We let others, including the word you have created, suffer from our misdeeds and short-sighted attempts to make ourselves more comfortable. We do everything but come to you in confession.**

**What does it take, Lord, for us to come to you? Why do we offer sacrifices and make solemn promises when what you actually want is for us to change our hearts and lives?**

*Meanwhile, the LORD provided a great fish to swallow Jonah. Jonah was in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights.*

silent confession

**Lord, teach us to come running towards you and not away. In the midst of life's storms and the fears and anxieties that threaten to swallow us whole, show our hearts how to trust in you. May we see your love and mercy. Amen.**

# Assurance of Pardon

from the prayer of Jonah 2:2,6

**I called to the Lord out of my distress, and God answered me;**

**out of the belly of Sheol I cried and you heard my voice.**

**I went down to the land whose bars closed upon me forever;**

**yet you brought my life from the Pit, O Lord my God.**

Over and over again, God reminds us that God is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Over and over again, we slip, stumble, fall, and sink and each time God raises us anew.

This time, may we be confident in God’s love and forgiveness and know a peace that we cannot contain. May the peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

# Passing the Peace Sign

# Scripture: Jonah 3:10-4:11

God saw what they were doing—that they had ceased their evil behavior. So God stopped planning to destroy them, and he didn’t do it.

But Jonah thought this was utterly wrong, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord, “Come on, Lord! Wasn’t this precisely my point when I was back in my own land? This is why I fled to Tarshish earlier! I know that you are a merciful and compassionate God, very patient, full of faithful love, and willing not to destroy. At this point, Lord, you may as well take my life from me, because it would be better for me to die than to live.”

The Lord responded, “Is your anger a good thing?” But Jonah went out from the city and sat down east of the city. There he made himself a hut and sat under it, in the shade, to see what would happen to the city.

Then the Lord God provided a shrub,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jonah+3%3A10-4%3A11&version=CEB#fen-CEB-22574a)] and it grew up over Jonah, providing shade for his head and saving him from his misery. Jonah was very happy about the shrub. But God provided a worm the next day at dawn, and it attacked the shrub so that it died. Then as the sun rose God provided a dry east wind, and the sun beat down on Jonah’s head so that he became faint. He begged that he might die, saying, “It’s better for me to die than to live.”

God said to Jonah, “Is your anger about the shrub a good thing?”

Jonah said, “Yes, my anger is good—even to the point of death!”

But the Lord said, “You ‘pitied’ the shrub, for which you didn’t work and which you didn’t raise; it grew in a night and perished in a night. Yet for my part, can’t I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than one hundred twenty thousand people who can’t tell their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

# Sermon

# Prayers of the People

# The Lord’s Prayer

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.

# Hymn – god you spin the whirling planets

# sending prayer

**Blessed are you God of growth and discovery; yours is the inspiration that has altered and changed our lives; yours is the power that has brought us new dangers and opportunities. Set us, your new creation, to walk in this new world, watching and learning, loving and trusting, until your kingdom comes. Amen.**