

Ephraim Moravian Church
Third Sunday after the Epiphany
24th January, 2021 at 10.00 a.m.

Order of Service

Welcome & Announcements

Chorale Prelude : “Oh God, Thou Faithful God” – by Sigfrid Karg-Elert

Watchword for the Week: *Trust in Him at all times, pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us* - Psalm 62:8

Hymn #320: “The People Who in Darkness Walked”

The people who in darkness walked have seen a glorious light
On them broke forth the heavenly dawn, who dwelt in death and night.

To hail your rising, sun of life, the gathering nations come
With joy, as when the reapers bear their harvest treasures home.

His name shall be the Prince of Peace, the Everlasting Lord
The Wonderful, the Counselor, the God by all adored.

Prayers of the Church & The Lord’s Prayer

Congregational Sung Response (#71, Red Hymnal)

*Light of the world, into our hearts let your full glory shine
That we may follow now your star, until we reach your shrine. Amen.*

Scripture Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10 & Jonah 4:1-11

Reflection

“Andante Tranquillo” from Sonata No. 3 - by Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

Sermon

“Allegro Vivace” from Organ Symphony No. 1 – by Louis Vierne

Benediction

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Reflection: Changing Your Mind

No one in my family would argue with the fact that I don't easily change my mind. They would all say I am downright stubborn and to be honest, they are right. But when I have thought things through so well and come up with undisputable “facts” to defend my position, how can anyone possibly say I am wrong? That is until I have egg on my face when I am confronted with the truth.

The Old Testament character, Jonah, also didn't change his mind easily. God had enlisted him to go to Nineveh to proclaim the word of salvation. Jonah had a real problem with that. Nineveh was a fearsome place, a huge city not known for being a welcoming place to people like Jonah. Nineveh, in Assyria, had a reputation as a belligerent people well known for terrorizing their neighbors. Go to Nineveh? “Thanks, but no thanks”, said Jonah.

There was one bit of dialog in this text that Jonah seemed to overlook. Rather than destroying Nineveh it was God's intent to save the city because they seemed to have admitted the error of their ways. God changed his mind about punishing Nineveh.

So often we describe God with attributes that we think apply. We think of God as all knowing, everywhere present. Wouldn't we like to think God never changes his mind? But He can, and He did. It's important that we grasp onto this fact. Just consider, if God couldn't change his mind would there be any point in asking for God's forgiveness? What a blessing it is that God can change his mind about what he thinks of us.

--Pastor Dan G. Olson

Pastor.....Dawn E. Volpe
Music Director.....Colin Welford



Ephraim Moravian Church
P.O. Box 73, Ephraim, WI 54211 (920) 854-2804
worship@ephraimmoravian.org
Website: www.ephraimmoravian.org