# Third Street Presbyterian Church (USA)

# Midweek Prayer and Bible Study- via Zoom

**Wednesday, May 5, 2021 - 6pm**

**Welcome /Introductions: Pastor Reid**

**Opening Prayer : Elder Bonnie Massey**

**Opening Song: Elder Lowery with Music Ministry**

**THE WORD: Reading: Barbara Massey- Arnold**

**Jonah Flees From the Lord** (New International Version)

**Jonah 1**

**1**The word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai: **2**“Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.”**3**But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the Lord. **4**Then the Lord sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. **5**All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god. And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship. But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep. **6**The captain went to him and said, “How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us so that we will not perish.”**7**Then the sailors said to each other, “Come, let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this calamity.” They cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah. **8**So they asked him, “Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us? What kind of work do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?”**9**He answered, “I am a Hebrew and I worship the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.”**10**This terrified them and they asked, “What have you done?” (They knew he was running away from the Lord, because he had already told them so.)**11**The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So they asked him, “What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?” **12**“Pick me up and throw me into the sea,” he replied, “and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you.” **13**Instead, the men did their best to row back to land. But they could not, for the sea grew even wilder than before. **14**Then they cried out to the Lord, “Please, Lord, do not let us die for taking this man’s life. Do not hold us accountable for killing an innocent man, for you, Lord, have done as you pleased.” **15**Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm. **16**At this the men greatly feared the Lord, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows to him.

### Jonah’s Prayer

**17**Now the Lord provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights

**REFLECTION- Reading :Elder Elizabeth Littlejohn**

Jonah was a prophet called by God. A prophet is someone who heard directly from God and spoke the words of God to the people. Often these words would be centered around judgment, need for repentance, promises, blessings, or back to the history of Gods people. Jonah was one of five main prophets speaking at that time. Other prophets were, Hosea, Amos, Joel and Obadiah.

The book of Jonah, reveals much to us today: 1-God’s concern for all people, not just his “chosen” people 2-Only God can save. 3- Look into the nature of God 4- Emphasizes the need for submission to God 5- God works outside of our own thoughts on theology and understanding and 6-Warnings against spiritual arrogance. God will invite us into conversation, even disputes with him concerning God’s desires in this world. When we look at Jonah through these six revelations, we are able to grow in our faith and understanding of this prophet.

How do we move from viewing Jonah as a failed prophet and fully see what God was doing in the world and in Jonah’s heart?

**Guiding Questions for Bible Study Discussion:**

Please feel free to join in during the study discussion. We all learn and are studying God’s Word together.

1. Why do you think Jonah was afraid?
2. Were there people on this ship who worshipped other gods?
3. What is Jonah’s reaction? Where does he go?v.1-2
4. What is God’s response to Jonah getting on the boat? Why do you think this might bother people who read this story? 4-16
5. If Jonah says nothing then what does that show about his faith in God?
6. What do we learn about God’s character in chapter 1?

**Apply God’s Word to your Life:**

Jonah the Prophet was one of the weak persons of the world whom God chose to put to shame the mighty ones (1 Cor. 1:27). He had faults and he had virtues, and the Lord chose him despite his faults, worked through him, in him and with him, and designated him to be a great and saintly prophet. God also shows us that God can work with us and use our weakness as we see did with Jonah. Are there examples in your own life where God has worked with you in your weaknesses?

**Sharing Inspiration and Mission Giving:**

What is inspiring you in these times? God is still doing a great work in all of us. If you desire to do so, Please share your inspiration.

***Pentecost Sunday–* May 23, 2021- Pentecost Offering is the 2nd of 4**

**special offering in the see PCUSA.**

 Each year on Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. The Holy Spirit remains with us still, connecting us with the church of the past, continuing to inspire the church of today, and pointing us to the church of the future. Each year, this celebration is marked by receiving the Pentecost Offering which nurtures the faith of those who are the church to come — children, youth, and young adults.

**Evening Prayer:**

We lift up prayer requests at this time, we lift up our joys and concerns before the Lord. …… Close with the Lord’s Prayer. *Our Father who art in heaven…..*

**Closing Song: Elder Lowery with Music Ministry**

**Words of Sending: - Pastor Reid- God keep and protect you and your household, May God make his light to shine all around and give you peace. AMEN!**

Thank you for joining our Mid-Week Bible Study and Prayer this week! Next Bible Study: **WEDNESDAY, May 12, 6pm.**

With the Love of Christ,

Pastor Reid