

Covenant Congregational Church

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Service of Worship

January 22, 2017

10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE	<i>Whiter Than Snow</i>	arr. Huggins
GATHERING SONG	<i>Seek Ye First</i>	insert
WELCOME		Pastor Jason O. Mohn

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us start this service well, by reminding ourselves:

That it is not we who chose Christ,

but Christ who chose us,

That we are not here because of our goodness

but because of Christ's grace,

That we are not here to enlighten ourselves,

but to allow Christ to enlighten us,

That we have not come to be entertained

but to worship God with heart, soul, mind and strength.

*HYMN

Shine, Jesus, Shine

195

*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Dear Lord, as we come to worship this morning, Let us kneel in the darkness,

Until we see God's light emerge.

Let us wait with hope filled hearts,

as Christ's image grows within us and shows us life.

Let him speak to us and teach us love,

until we open our hearts to be his home. Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

Janet Linehan

Old Testament Reading:

Isaiah 9:1-4

NRSV (Old Testament page 638)

⁹ But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

² The people who walked in darkness

have seen a great light;

those who lived in a land of deep darkness—

on them light has shined.

³ You have multiplied the nation,

you have increased its joy;

they rejoice before you

as with joy at the harvest,

as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ For the yoke of their burden,

and the bar across their shoulders,

the rod of their oppressor,

you have broken as on the day of Midian.

New Testament Reading:

Acts 8:26-40

NRSV (New Testament page 127)

²⁶ Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷ So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it."

³⁰ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹ He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³² Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" ³⁸ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Response:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

*HYMN

Baptized in Water

547

(Children K through 3rd grade are dismissed to Junior Church at this time)

SERMON

"Beelonging"

Pastor Jason O. Mohn

PASTORAL PRAYER & 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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory *By Still Waters* Birchwood
*Doxology 48

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

* Prayer of Dedication

*HYMN *On Our Way Rejoicing* 671

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE *Wake the Day with Gladness* Giamanco

*Please stand in praise to God, if able
CCLI #982653

Thank you for participating in our worship gathering! We are glad that you are here this morning and pray that this might be a meaningful faith-building experience for you and/or your family. To more deeply connect with this faith community, we invite you to stay following our worship gathering and enjoy a time of refreshments and fellowship in our Fireside Room and Narthex.



“Beelonging”

From the Sermon Series: Bee the Church

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