



First Parish of Westwood UCC

252 Nahatan Street, Westwood, MA 02090

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Rev. Dr. Jill Edens, Interim Pastor

Rev. Richard Edens, Interim Pastor

January 24, 2021
3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Gathering

PREPARATION

*The place God calls you is the place
where your deep gladness and world's deep hunger meet.*

Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking*

RINGING OF THE HOUR

Jesse Aguilar with Fina Aguilar

WELCOME AND PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Rev. Dr. Jill Edens, Interim Pastor

WARRANT FOR 2021 ANNUAL MEETING

Judith Thomson, Clerk

CALL TO WORSHIP IN MUSIC

You are invited

Sarah Tocco
Dr. Sarah Tocco, Director of Music

Encountering the Word

LESSON

Jonah Goes to Nineveh

A participatory story
Edens/Zimmer Family

Scripture often lifts up the unexpected faithfulness of the outsider – e.g., Balaam, Ruth, the good Samaritan, and, yes, the Ninevites. Jonah reluctantly and perfunctorily fulfills his calling to proclaim a word of hope to the enemy that destruction can be avoided by changing their ways. Amazingly, the entire population and the government converts. God then forgives and does not destroy. Without concluding, the parable closes with Jonah holding on to a narrow and bitter attitude about enemies. You are left pondering, will Jonah change?

As we hear the story of Jonah going to Nineveh, you are invited to make these responses as you hear the story.

Jonah: “No way!”

Nineveh: “Those people.”

Boat: sway back and forth

Wind: blow loudly

Waves: make wave motions with hands

Sailors: salute

Great Fish: make a gulping sound

LESSON

Reader: Bob Deininger
Mark 1:14-20, NRSV

After the arrest of John the Baptist, Jesus begins his public ministry. Jesus announces that time has been fulfilled and began proclaiming the good news that the kingdom of God has come near. Along the Sea of Galilee Jesus called fishermen to become followers: Simon and his brother Andrew, James, and his brother John.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “*The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.*” As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea - for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, “*Follow me and I will make you fish for people.*” And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

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HYMN

You Walk along Our Shoreline

SALLEY GARDENS, *Traditional Irish*
Dr. Sarah Tocco, Director of Music

*You walk along our shoreline, where land meets unknown sea.
We hear your voice of power, "Now come and follow me.
And if you still will follow through storm and wave and shoal,
Then I will make you fishers, but of the human soul."*

MESSAGE

Rev. Richard Edens, Interim Pastor

PASTORAL PRAYER CONCLUDING WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Richard Edens, Interim Pastor

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

ANTHEM

Will You Come and Follow Me (The Summons)

KELVINGROVE, *Traditional Scottish*
First Parish Westwood Choir
Dr. Sarah Tocco, Director of Music

Giving Thanks in Response to the Word

OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD AND TO ONE ANOTHER

Rev. Richard Edens, Interim Pastor

Until that day when we gather again in the sanctuary, please send your tithes and gifts for First Parish to the church office at 252 Nahatan Street, Westwood, MA 02090.

Sending

BENEDICTION

Rev. Richard Edens, Interim Pastor

BLESSING IN MUSIC

Go in Peace

First Parish Choir
Dr. Sarah Tocco, Director of Music

The language [of Jesus] is clearly political in content, for it concerns a kingdom. The kingdom is not about philosophy, ethics, or abstract spirituality; it is about God's rule in history here and now. There is a hard edge to kingdom discourse; it suggests that we cannot reduce what is at stake to interior piety or the world to come. Current public and political issues are in view. To his hearers this would be obvious, for in Israel religion and politics, ethics, and politics, were inextricably connected.

William Abraham, *The Lectionary Commentary*