

Sunday

10:45 am Hebrews Group
10:45 am Adult Sunday School -
Journeys in Faith

Monday

6:00 pm Bible Study (Men/Women)
6:00 pm OES

Tuesday

6:30 am Men’s Bible Study
4:30 pm Prayer Gathering

Wednesday

10:00 am Sisters In Christ
4:30 pm Anchored Kids
5:30 pm Men's Bible study
6:00 pm Bells
7:00 pm Choir

The Prayer Room is open before, during and after today’s service. Members of the Prayer Team are available to pray with you after the Service.

Sermon Notes

Horizontal lines for writing sermon notes.

Grace Methodist Church 901 N Main Decatur, IL 62521

Phone: (217) 429-5374 www.decaturchurch.org

October 8 2023

RUNNING FROM GOD



THE STORY OF JONAH

Prelude : Ceremonial Trumpet Tune by Raymond Haan

Introit : The One and Only God - Chancel Choir

***Call to Worship**

***Opening Hymn**

UMH #400 - Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Announcements

Congregational Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Prayer Anthem: If You Search with All Your Heart
- Chancel Choir

You are Holy/Prince of Peace
(Offering)
Good, Good Father

UMH #95 Doxology & Prayer of Dedication

***Scripture**

Jonah 2

***Scripture Response & UMH #393-Spirit of the Living God**

Message

Jonah Part II : Running To God

***Closing Hymn**

UMH #384 –Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

***Benediction**

Postlude : “In God’s Good Time” by Peter Burkhardt

***Congregation please stand as able**

Liturgist: **Carol Reed**

Rev. Dr. Arun Paul - arun@decatargrace.org

(Worship is recorded for T.V. viewing and other social media platforms)

Congregational Prayer

O listening God, O God Who is our Refuge, hear our prayer today as we come to You with praise and adoration for the power and glory You display each day in our lives. With David, we proclaim, “O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!” Your power is without comparison, and Your will is perfect in our lives.

O Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth! How absolute is Your power!

Despite our acknowledgment of Your majesty, O God, we sometimes try to run away from You and Your will for our lives. Like Jonah, we attempt to use our human judgements and prejudices to make our own decisions about ourselves and about others. We begin to believe that our will supersedes Your will, and we think we can go our own way. But storms inevitably strike when we think this way, and we are left on a deeply troubled sea of conflict, trouble, and worry.

O Jesus, Who called out, “Peace! Be still!”, we pray that You save us from the storms in our lives, as well, even when we are the ones who create them.

Like Jonah, we sometimes find ourselves in the belly of the whale-- in the darkness and depths of sure destruction. We struggle for air; we are being swallowed by our grief, our sadness, our despair, our obstinance. We often feel there is no solution to our plight. Despite our disobedience, send Your Holy Spirit to inspire us to pray, to seek You out, to find You and know that You are near.

Listen to the sounds of our cries, O Father Eternal, for to You we pray for help.

Father, help us acknowledge our fault and failures. O Lord, help us remember that even in the most difficult times, You are the only source of support and guidance. Turn our hearts to You and You alone and humble us to ask for wisdom that is far beyond human capability. Convince us, Lord, that You are, indeed, more powerful than we are. Persuade us, Lord, that You know better than we do.

Lord, lead us in Your righteousness and make Your way straight before us.

We may lose sight of You, O God, but You never lose sight of us. You show us the way back to You and back to a peace that we cannot have without You. We seek You, Father, in every thought and prayer that we ask in the name of Your dear Son, Who taught us to pray:

(The Lord's Prayer follows)