

**January 24, 2021**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**  
**<https://youtu.be/UEjjAd73K00> - Worship Video**

**Welcome & Announcements**

Welcome to worship at Merville United Methodist Church.

As we worship, I hope you will feel the presence of God.

- We are now having in-person worship services in our Sanctuary at 10:15am on Sunday mornings.
- Please note that the church building does remain closed Monday – Friday to visitors. If you are in need of speaking to Holli our Administrative Secretary or myself please call the church office.
- We encourage you to continue to mail in your gifts and offerings to the church office or you may set up online giving by contacting Holli our administrative secretary. You will need to fill out a form and provide a voided check.

**Gathering Words**

**Opening Hymn**      *Lord of the Dance*

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,  
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,  
And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth;  
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

Dance, then, wherever you may be;  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,  
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,  
And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,  
But they would not dance, and they wouldn't follow me;  
I danced for the fishermen, for James and for John;  
They came with me and the dance went on.

Dance, then, wherever you may be;  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,  
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,  
And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame:  
The holy people said it was a shame.  
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,  
And they left me there on a Cross to die.

Dance, then, wherever you may be;  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,

And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,  
And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;  
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back.  
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone;  
But I am the Dance and I still go on.

Dance, then, wherever you may be;  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,  
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,  
And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

They cut me down and I leapt up high;  
I am the life that'll never, never die;  
I'll live in you if you'll live in me:  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

Dance, then, wherever you may be;  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,  
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,  
And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

### **Responsive 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.**

### **Pastoral Prayer**

#### **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 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, forever. Amen.

#### **Song of Invitation**     *Lord, You Have come to the Lakeshore*

Lord, You have come to the lakeshore  
Looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones  
You only asked me to follow humbly

O Lord, with Your eyes You have searched me  
And while smiling have spoken my name

Now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me  
By Your side I will seek other seas

You know so well my possessions  
My boat carries no gold and no weapons  
You will find there, my nets and labor

O Lord, with Your eyes You have searched me  
And while smiling have spoken my name  
Now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me  
By Your side I will seek other seas

You need my hands full of caring  
Through my labors to give others rest  
And constant love that keeps on loving

O Lord, with Your eyes You have searched me  
And while smiling have spoken my name  
Now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me  
By Your side I will seek other seas

You, who have fished other oceans  
Ever longed for by souls who are waiting  
My loving friend, as thus You call me

O Lord, with Your eyes You have searched me  
And while smiling have spoken my name  
Now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me  
By Your side I will seek other seas

## **Words of Preparation**

### **Scripture** – Mark 1:14-20 (The Message)

<sup>14-15</sup> After John the Baptist was arrested, Jesus went to Galilee preaching the Message of God: “Time’s up! God’s kingdom is here. Change your life and believe the Message.”

<sup>16-18</sup> Passing along the beach of Lake Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew net-fishing. Fishing was their regular work. Jesus said to them, “Come with me. I’ll make a new kind of fisherman out of you.

I’ll show you how to catch men and women instead of perch and bass.” They didn’t ask questions. They dropped their nets and followed.

<sup>19-20</sup> A dozen yards or so down the beach, he saw the brothers James and John, Zebedee’s sons. They were in the boat, mending their fishnets. Right off, he made the same offer.

Immediately, they left their father Zebedee, the boat, and the hired hands, and followed.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Message**

“Going Fishing”

*Pastor Jill*

## **Prayer of Commitment**

**Lord Jesus,  
The one and only Christ,  
You called many people  
From many walks of life -  
To leave their own ways and follow you;  
To be your disciples;  
And to prize people as something to seek, find and restore.**

**Lord Jesus,  
The one true leader of every church,  
We choose to stand as one church – your church –  
And to lift our focus from our differences and divides.  
We will leave our own ways and follow you together;  
Support each other as we seek to be your disciples;  
And work together to focus on fishing once more.  
For we must act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly together  
Before you – and each other.  
For the sake of our worship of you,  
Our love for each other,  
And the future and freedom of all those still living in poverty.**

**Lord Jesus,  
We ask for your Spirit's help with this  
For we are quick to focus on ourselves, our labels and our differences  
Rather than the same nets in our hands, and the same leader before us.  
Christ have mercy - in your precious name which unites us all. Amen.**

## **Closing Song**     *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*

I have decided to follow Jesus;  
I have decided to follow Jesus;  
I have decided to follow Jesus;  
No turning back, no turning back.

The world behind me, the cross before me,  
The world behind me, the cross before me;  
The world behind me, the cross before me;  
No turning back, no turning back.

Though none go with me, still I will follow,  
Though none go with me still I will follow,  
Though none go with me, still I will follow;  
No turning back, no turning back.

## **Blessing & Commission**