



Prophet Hosea

**Fourth Sunday After Epiphany
How Do We Hear Difficult Prophetic Words?**

WHITNEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

January 31, 2021 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Christina Thompson

WELCOME

Welcome to worship today. I am Rev. Christina Thompson, and I am pastor here at Whitney UMC. We are exploring what it means to Listening to the Voice of God. Today we hear we wrestle with how we hear difficult prophetic words. May we hear the voice of Hear God today.

LIGHTING CANDLE

As we worship today, I invite you to light your candle as a reminder that Christ is the light of the world and that light is with us always.

Liturgist this morning is Kathy Old

CALL TO WORSHIP

From Psalm 111

Come!

Let us give thanks to the Lord with whole hearts.

Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

Glory be to the One whose wonders are to be remembered.

Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

The Lord is gracious and full of compassion.

Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

The Lord feeds the righteous with truth.

Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

Come! Let us give thanks to God.

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, Light from Light,
who commands the universe and all that is made,
your Word is the power that makes whole what is broken,
the force of good, and the food of peace.
Help us to hear difficult words from you.
Heal us now so that in all that we say and do,
the freedom we have in you may be for others, too;
in Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

OPENING SONG

Andy & Svetlana Maddox

Guide me, O Thou Great Jehovah 127 vs1,2

CCLI Song # 1448 John Hughes | Peter Williams | William Williams

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Verse 1

Guide me O Thou great Jehovah
Pilgrim through this barren land
I am weak but Thou art mighty
Hold me with Thy powerful hand
Bread of heaven Bread of heaven
Feed me till I want no more
Feed me till I want no more

Verse 2

Open now the crystal fountain
Whence the healing stream doth flow
Let the fiery cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through
Strong Deliverer strong Deliverer
Be Thou still my strength and shield
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Let us pray for the needs of the world, saying,
Hear us, O God, your mercy is great.
For the healing of Earth and all its creatures;
hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

For the church's willingness, to wrestle with difficult topics
for congregations that are in turmoil,
for the healing of divisions between the followers of Christ Jesus;
hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

For leaders of nations,
including our own country and its new leaders
for those who have great wealth,
for those who have too much power,
for those who have destructive weapons,
and for those who have none;
hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

For those who are victims of others' idolatry,
for children who have no one to listen
to their cries for food and shelter,
for parents who cannot answer the needs of their children,
for peacemakers and diplomats,
for those who give through charities,
and for those who use the law
to make policies for the greater good;
hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

For all who are in pain and in need of care,
especially those we name now aloud or silently, . . .
[A time of silence is kept.]
hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

For the wisdom to fear you rightly,
the power to withstand changes in our own lives
that bring us closer to you,
for the ability to give thanks for the people
who have brought us to this time—
our ancestors, teachers, pastors,
prophets and the martyrs of every age;
hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

Into your hands we commend all those for whom we pray
and those it would be easy to forget.
We ask your blessing on all your people,
that we may come at last to the truth
around your banquet table that has no end;
through Christ Jesus, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev Dewey Knowles

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy Spirit, your people call out for understanding.
Bring to our yearning hearts and minds
the truth of your Word; in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

SERMON

Rev Christina

How Do We Hear Difficult Prophetic Words?

May we see that even the prophetic and tough words of God in scripture are a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path.

Let us sing together with our praise band “Thy Word”.

SONG

Six Ways to Sunday (Band)

Thy Word #601

CCLI Song # 14301

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Chorus

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path

Verse 1

When I feel afraid
think I've lost my way
Still You're there right beside me
And nothing will I fear
As long as You are near
Please be near me to the end

Chorus

Verse 2

I will not forget
Your love for me and yet
My heart forever is wandering
Jesus be my guide
And hold me to Your side
And I will love You to the end

Chorus (x2)

OFFERING

Do not let idols grow and multiply in your hands,
but give of yourselves, your time, and your pos-
sessions
out of love for this creation
and honor toward what you have been given.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING/DEDICATION

For Earth, which you have molded,
for creatures and animals, plants, water, air, and fire,
for Jesus who died and rose again,
for the breath of life,
we give you thanks, O God.

Let these gifts be used for good wherever there is need,
in the name of all that you have first given us,
especially Christ Jesus, your Son, our Savior. **Amen.**

DOXOLOGY

Andy and Svetlana Maddox

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow #94

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Chorus

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Alleluia, alleluia
Praise God the source of all our gifts
Praise Christ whose power uplifts
Praise the Spirit Holy Spirit
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Even as we struggle with the difficult challenges that we face in the
world, we know that we stand always on the promises of God. Let us
sing Standing on the promises of God.

CLOSING SONG

Andy & Svetlana Maddox

Standing on the Promises #374 vss. 1,2,4

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Verse 1

Standing on the promises of Christ my King
Through eternal ages let His praises ring
Glory in the highest I will shout and sing
Standing on the promises of God

Chorus

Standing standing
Standing on the promises of God my Savior
Standing standing
I'm standing on the promises of God

Verse 2

Standing on the promises that cannot fail
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail
By the living Word of God I shall prevail
Standing on the promises of God.

Chorus

Standing standing
Standing on the promises of God my Savior
Standing standing
I'm standing on the promises of God.

Verse 4

Standing on the promises I cannot fall
Listening every moment to the Spirit's call
Resting in my Savior as my All in All
Standing on the promises of God.

Chorus

Standing standing
Standing on the promises of God my Savior
Standing standing
I'm standing on the promises of God.

SENDING FORTH

Go out from this place to a world fully known by God.
Where there is fear, remember the authority of Christ Jesus.
Where there is need of love, give it.
Where there is pain, bring peace.
For you are loved by the One who redeems,
and freed to live by the Word of life.

BLESSING

Go in peace with the knowledge that God's power
is given to the church, the body of Christ,
for the sake of the life of the world.

PASSING THE PEACE

May the Peace of Christ be with you
And also with you

INVITATION TO NEXT WEEK

I invite you to join us next week as we look at Words that have
been spoken since the beginning of time.

After worship, you are invited to join us for fellowship time on
Zoom. The link to join us is in the email you received with the links
to this service. There are also instructions on this screen. We will
gather about 10:45.

You are also invited to join us on our Facebook Group Whitney
United Methodist church group to chat about the service. You can
join the conversation anytime.

Our radio program Reach Out and Trust broadcasts on KBXL 94.1
FM on Sunday morning at 7:30 am and 11:30 am.

May God be with us until we meet again

Duccio, di Buoninsegna, d. 1319. Prophet Hosea, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the
Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. [http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-
image/ink.pl?RC=46447](http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-image/ink.pl?RC=46447) [retrieved January 26, 2021]. Original source: www.yorckproject.de.

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