

Follow Me – What have to Do With Us?

January 31, 2021

Gathering Music

Kyrie

Susan

WE GATHER

Greeting

Rev. Gaye

Call to Worship

Rev. Glenn

Brothers and sisters in Christ, what hopes do you bring to worship?
We bring hope for health and wholeness.

What afflictions do you bring to worship?

Physical pain?

From illness and injury.

Emotional pain?

From sad and scary life situations.

Mental pain?

From dis-ease of many kinds.

With all of these afflictions,

it's a miracle that any of us have made it to worship this morning!

But where else would we be?

**We yearn to know God's powerful love
and to know that wholeness is possible.**

In today's gospel, a person with an "*afflicting spirit*" interrupts Jesus
and Jesus frees him.

And where does the miracle of his story and our stories begin?

**When we bring all of who we are—hopeful, afflicted, bold—
into relationship with the Divine.**

So come, let us enter this sanctuary space with our whole selves
—hopeful, afflicted and bold— Come, let us worship!

written by Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel, pastor of Plymouth United Church, UCC, in Spring, Texas.

WE PROCLAIM

Sharing the Word

Deuteronomy 18:15-20 (Common English Bible)

Maribeth Peiniger

¹⁵ The LORD your God will raise up a prophet like me from your community, from your fellow Israelites. He's the one you must listen to.

¹⁶ That's exactly what you requested from the LORD your God at Horeb, on the day of the assembly, when you said, "I can't listen to the LORD my God's voice anymore or look at this great fire any longer. I don't want to die!"

¹⁷ The LORD said to me: What they've said is right.

¹⁸ I'll raise up a prophet for them from among their fellow Israelites—one just like you. I'll put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him.

¹⁹ I myself will hold accountable anyone who doesn't listen to my words, which that prophet will speak in my name.

²⁰ However, any prophet who arrogantly speaks a word in my name that I haven't commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods—that prophet must die.

²¹ Jesus and his followers went into Capernaum. Immediately on the Sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and started teaching.

²² The people were amazed by his teaching, for he was teaching them with authority, not like the legal experts.

²³ Suddenly, there in the synagogue, a person with an evil spirit screamed, ²⁴ “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are. You are the holy one from God.”

²⁵ “Silence!” Jesus said, speaking harshly to the demon. “Come out of him!” ²⁶ The unclean spirit shook him and screamed, then it came out.

²⁷ Everyone was shaken and questioned among themselves, “What’s this? A new teaching with authority! He even commands unclean spirits and they obey him!”

²⁸ Right away the news about him spread throughout the entire region of Galilee.

Message

Rev. Gaye

Our Tithes and Offerings

Rev. Glenn

God of power and wisdom, we give you our eternal thanks for the gift of your Son, who came not only to save but to teach us about your kingdom and how we might live, readying ourselves for that kingdom.

He taught with authority, and if we listen, we will live a life of generosity, mercy, and compassion. Bless what we give this day and help us be faithful in the use of all our resources, that we might live like those anticipating your kingdom.

In the name and Spirit of Christ, we pray. Amen.

Offertory

Stevie Astley

Rescue

WE GO FORTH

Announcements

Rev Gaye

Benediction

Rev Gaye

Jesus comes to us, offering healing and hope, speaking and acting with authority.

Listen to him. Go into this world,

confident in God's love and healing power.

Go in peace and may God's love and peace

always be with you. AMEN.

Nancy C. Townley

Scattering Song

NCH 388

Help Us Accept Each Other

1.Help us ac - cept each oth - er as Christ ac - cept - ed us; teach
 2.Teach us, O God, your les - sons, as in our dai - ly life we
 3.Let your ac - cep - tance change us, so that we may be moved in
 4.God, for to - day's en - coun - ters with all who are in need, who

5
 us as sis - ter, broth - er, each per - son to em - brace. Be
 strug - gle to be hu - man and search for hope and faith. Teach
 liv - ing sit - u - a - tions to do the truth in love; To
 hun - ger for ac - cep - tance, for righ - teous - ness and bread, Bring

9
 pre - sent, God, a - mong us, and bring us to be - lieve we
 us to care for peo - ple, for all, not just for some, to
 prac - tice your ac - cep - tance, un - til we know by heart the
 us new eyes for see - ing, new hands for hold - ing on; re -

13
 are our - selves ac - cept - ed and meant to love and live.
 love them as we find them, or as they may be - come.
 ta - ble of for - give - ness and laugh - ter's heal - ing art.
 new us with your Spir - it; God! Free us, make us one!