

# Stoke Poges Church

St Giles' and St Andrew's



Sunday 1st November 2020  
Led by Natasha Brady

## Welcome to this All Age service

"Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge."  
Psalm 62.8

Please join in using the words in **bold**.

### Welcome & Gathering

Open our minds, O God;  
open our hearts, O Christ;  
open our souls, O Spirit;  
that we might be renewed  
and see you anew once more.  
Amen.

Song Open the eyes of our heart Lord

Paul Baloche © 1997 Integrity Hosanna! Music CCLI Number: 2298355

## Introducing today's theme

### First Reading: Jonah chapters 1-3

Video: Produced by Central Films and used under web license from '[WorshipHouseMedia.com](http://WorshipHouseMedia.com)'

### Opening the word pt1: Courage needed ...

### Confession song & activity

O come to the altar

Chris Brown, Steven Furtick, Mack Brock, Wade Joye © 2015 Music by Elevation Worship Publishing. CCLI  
Number: 7051511

Forgiving God, hear us as we bring all that we are and all we have been to you ....  
Let's pray,

**Lord our God, in our sin we have avoided your call.  
Our love for you is like a morning cloud,  
like the dew that goes away early.  
Have mercy on us;  
deliver us from judgement;  
bind up our wounds and revive us;  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

### Second Reading: Jonah 4 read by Richard Beckingsale

**1** But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. **2** He prayed to the Lord, 'Isn't this what I said, Lord, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. **3** Now, Lord, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live.'

**4** But the Lord replied, 'Is it right for you to be angry?'

**5** Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. **6** Then the Lord God provided a leafy plant and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant. **7** But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered. **8** When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah's head so

that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, 'It would be better for me to die than to live.'

**9** But God said to Jonah, 'Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?'

'It is,' he said. 'And I'm so angry I wish I were dead.'

**10** But the Lord said, 'You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. **11** And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left – and also many animals?'

Talk 2:        The unexpected grace of God ...

#### Creed

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

*cf Ephesians 3*

Intercession .... prepared and read to us by Jamie Brady

Response:    For in you O Lord, **do we put our trust.**

#### Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against  
us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours now and for ever.    Amen.**

Song     I will sing

Written and performed by Sandra McCracken © 2020 Integrity Worship Music/Paper News Publishing/  
ASCAP, Integrity Praise! Music/Little Way Creative CCLI#7150643

Final Prayer

Let us pray together ...

**From Nineveh into the world, we are called to proclaim God's grace.  
May we go now and share that grace through our living with each other.  
Amen.**



**Please Note -**

Advance booking for Remembrance Sunday is required - follow the link on the church website to book. If you need assistance - email [office@stokepogeschurch.org](mailto:office@stokepogeschurch.org) or phone 01753 642331.

**Thank you for joining us today. Keep safe  
and God Bless**

# Going Deeper



## Bible Notes

This book makes Jonah out to be a parody of what a real prophet should be. Everyone knows the delightful tale of Jonah being swallowed by the 'great fish'. The irony is that, whilst the heathen sailors do all they can to placate the gods, Jonah is asleep, so far as God is concerned. The Assyrians are the old enemy and Jonah's excuse is that as foreigners they cannot be part of God's plan. But God's servants are called as 'a light to the nations' (Isaiah 49.5-6), and now Jonah is called 'a second time'. The people of Nineveh, the godless heathen as Jonah sees them, respond immediately to his preaching. And God did change his mind, much to the annoyance of Jonah, as the story goes on to relate. Jonah should have known better, but instead responds by sulking when God forgives. He could be the prototype for the elder brother in the story of the prodigal son (Luke. 15.25-32).

## Living Faith

Look through the newspaper and reflect on the people and places that are in the same situation as Nineveh: in need of change, waiting for a prophet, longing for someone to call them anew. How can we be Jonah in the world, offering the chance of renewal and redemption?

## A personal prayer

Behold, Lord, you make all things new.

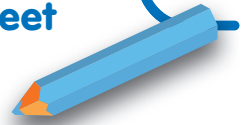
**Amen.**

*Revelation 21.5*

Sunday 1st November 2020

# ROOTS

## Children's Sheet

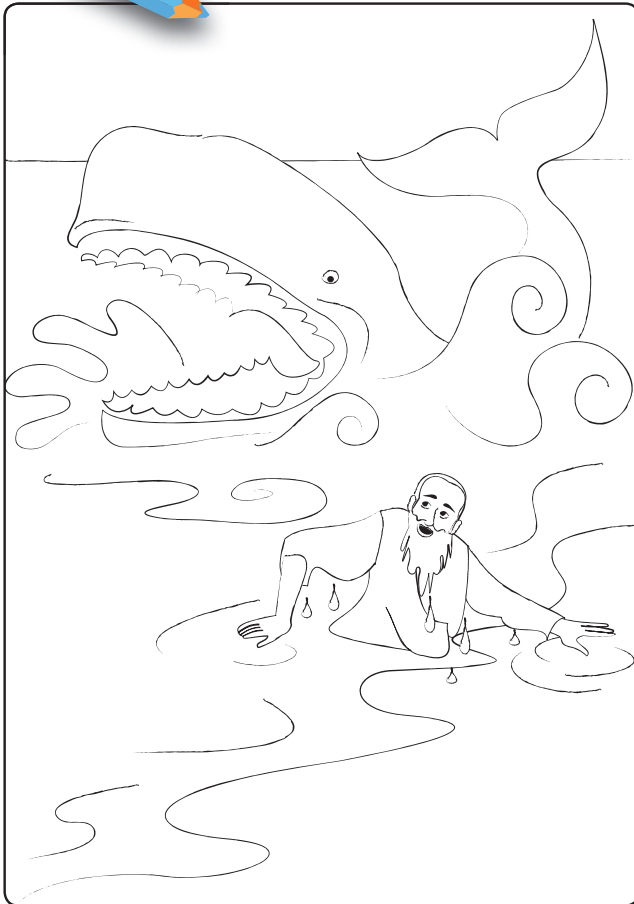
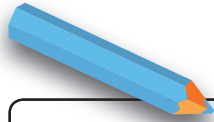


### Today's Bible reading

**Jonah 3.1-5,10**

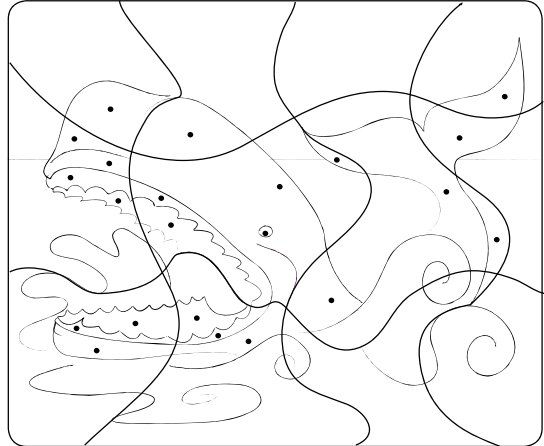
The story of Jonah who ends up inside a whale is a funny one. It reminds us that God can change his mind and we can turn to him.

When have  
you changed  
your mind?



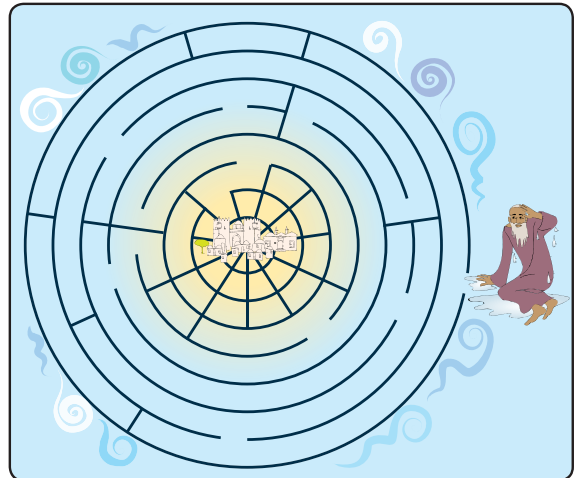
### Activity 1

Colour in the pieces with dots in. What do you discover?



### Activity 2

Can you help Jonah to reach the town of Nineveh?



# PRAYER


Thank you, God, that you may change your mind, but you never change your love for us.

Amen.

### Live in faith

This week try doing something new each day. Keep a chart to show all the different things you have done.

### Check it out

Watch the film *Up!*  Carl doesn't like change, but when he has to change, exciting things happen!

