

BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CENTER

1136 Baseline Road
Grand Island, New York www.bfcgi.org 716-773-3748

THE LORD'S DAY

December 11, 2016 8:30 AM & 10:15AM

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Organ Prelude Carol Dammann
Piano Wendy Baldwin
Announcements Ron Mock

MEDITATION

“Who was Prepared to Help Jonah?” - Jonah 1:17 opposite page

Solo	“What Child Is This?”	Ron Mock
Prayer and Scripture Reading		Psalm 91
Lighting of 3 rd candle signifying the shepherd's abiding in the field	Luke 2:8-9, 15b	
Hymns 259 vs 1, 2, 5, 260		
Pastoral Prayer		Pastor Cal VanderMey
Hymn 250	“O Little Town of Bethlehem”	
Message	The Christmas Story	Dr. Brian Albrecht
Hymn 277	“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”	Benediction

THE MINISTRY OF MISSION

For the glory of God, Bible Fellowship Center is committed to spreading the Good News of salvation, equipping the believers, that they might become more Christ-like, worship God and enjoy Him forever.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Christmas Caroling Monday Dec. 12th bus leaves 6pm sharp!
Monday night prayer meeting at 7pm
Tuesday Bible study: The book of Jude at 7pm - Pastor Cal
Wednesday Men's Bible study at 9:00am - Jim O'Rourke
Thursday precept class on Romans at 9:15am with Margaret Was
Ladies fellowship and prayer time Thursday at 10am-Elsa Peters
Adult Bible study Friday at 7pm - John Woodell leading
The offering box is located in the back of the sanctuary
BFC Multipurpose/Utility Building \$31,400 to complete-received \$31,490!!!

Praise the Lord it's paid for!!!

Choir practice Wednesday, Dec. 14th at 6:30pm

Children's Christmas Program Today, Sunday Dec 11th at 4pm

Christmas Caroling Monday Dec. 12th bus leaves 6pm sharp!

Worship Service and Carol Sing Dec 18th 6:30pm E1M with Disabilities

Christmas Eve Candlelight and Carol service at 6pm.

Christmas Morning Sunday Service 10:15am Only

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Sunday messages are available online, CD or e-mail. See Bill Schultz

¹⁷ Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

The word “prepared” is carefully chosen in this verse. Strong's Concordance says that the Hebrew word *manah* (prepared) has a basic meaning “to assign.” This same word is used in Psalm 147:4 to praise God for knowing the number of stars and naming each one. In the Book of Jonah, it signifies “to appoint” or “to ordain.” Like many of the accounts in the Bible, Jonah 1:17 describes God's intervention in natural events to bring about His will. By preparing the fish, and then later the plant, and the worm, God made sure that Jonah's mission and direction in life was not left to chance. God acts sovereignly over the plant and animal world in order to act sovereignly over Jonah's life as well.

The LORD had prepared a great fish—not to kill Jonah, but to keep him from drowning. It was not a punishment although Jonah must have felt that as he was enclosed by the digestive juices of a great fish.

Many times kids and adults have asked me if this was a true story—Jonah and the whale. My answer was that Jesus believed it was true, and even said that it spoke of His time in the grave—three days and then the resurrection (Matthew 12:39-40). All was real, all was prophetic, and all is meant to teach us about our responsibility before God.