

June 21, 2020 ~ Third Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE: "Shall We Gather at the River" | "Near to the Heart of God" arr. M. Hayes

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISMS: Don Allen, 6.21

GATHERING SONG: No. 283 – "Come, O Holy Spirit Come"

Come, O Holy Spirit, come;
Come, almighty Spirit, come;
Come, come, come.

Wa wa wa Emimimo;
Wa wa wa Alagbara;
Wao, wao, wao.

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

CALL TO WORSHIP

*OPENING SONG OF PRAISE: No. 52– "When Egypt Was in Israel's Land"

When Israel was in Egypt's land,
let my people go;
oppressed so hard they could not stand,
let my people go!

Refrain:
Go down, Moses,
way down in Egypt's land;
tell old Pharaoh:
let my people go!

"Thus saith the Lord," bold Moses said,
"Let my people go!
If not, I'll smite your firstborn dead.
Let my people go!"
(Refrain)

"No more shall they in bondage toil:
let my people go!
Let them come out with Egypt's spoil:
let my people go!"
(Refrain)

O let us all from bondage flee;
let my people go!
And let us all in Christ be free:
let my people go!

ADMITTING THE BROKENNESS OF LIFE

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (RESPONSIVE):

God, you have asked us to be like Moses— Standing up for your people,
standing up for justice.

**But too often we are like Pharaoh—
Holding onto power, or holding onto privilege.**

God, you ask us to be like Aaron—
Who stood by his brother to unravel systems of oppression.

**But too often we align with Pharaoh—
Saying "no" to change and unraveling your vision for justice and peace.**

Forgive us for all the ways we stand on the wrong side of history.

**Forgive us for the harm we do to your planet, and for the harm we do to
your children.**

Help us to be like Moses.

Forgive us when we're like Pharaoh.

Time for Silent Confession

Amen

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

SONG OF RESPONSE: No. 57 – "Tremble, O Tremble" v. 5

Tremble, O tremble!
Our God forgives, and yet our sin must be set right at last.
O Holy One!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

ENCOUNTERING THE WORD IN OUR MIDST

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Exodus 5:1-2, 7:8-23

SERMON: "A Tale of Two Gods"

HYMN OF RESPONSE: No. 786 – "Why Stand So Far Away My God?"

Why stand so far away, my God?
Why hide in times of need?
The proud, unbridled, chase the poor,
and curse you in their greed.

Why do you hide when, full of lies,
they murder and betray?
They wait to pounce upon the weak
as lions stalk their prey.

The weak are crushed and fall to earth;
the wicked strut and preen.
Why in these cruel, chaotic times
cannot your face be seen?

In ages past you heard the voice
of those the proud oppress.
Remember those who suffer now,
who cry in deep distress.

Arise, O God, and lift your hand;
bring justice to the poor.
Come, help us stop the flow of blood!
Let terror reign no more!

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

**I believe in God, the Great Sewer—
Who weaves us together in community,
Collecting our loose ends and turning them into belonging.
I believe in the Holy Spirit—
Who hems us in before and behind,
Catching us when we fall and writing us into God’s holy narrative.
And I believe in Jesus Christ—
Who loved and claimed the people society had thrown out, refusing to
disregard anyone as scrap.
I believe God has woven part of God’s self into the fiber of our being,
making us inherently worthy of love and belonging.
I believe the fabric of my life is weak,
That I am prone to error and need God’s handiwork to remind me of love.
I believe in the Church, and that like a quilt of different fabrics, She is
designed to be as diverse and beautiful as God’s creation.
And I believe that when life unravels,
God is there to stitch my wounds together,
To hold me in the palm of God’s hand, to tell me of love, And to invite me
into a new journey.
Amen.**

RESPONDING IN GRATITUDE AND SERVICE

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS

*DOXOLOGY: - No. 692 – “Spirit, Open My Heart” - refrain

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving.
Spirit, open my heart.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

FINAL HYMN: No. 750 – “Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil” (twice)

Goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate;
light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death.
Victory is ours; victory is ours, through God who loves us.
Victory is ours, victory is ours, through God who loves us.

BENEDICTION

SUNG BENEDICTION: No. 291 – “Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness” refrain

Spirit, spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness, calling and free.
Spirit, spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness,
wind, wind on the sea.

ANNOUNCEMENT

GREAT COMMUNITY GIVE: Our congregation is a member of Faith in Action and we support the current campaign to expand affordable housing opportunities in our community. We believe that all God's children need a safe place to call home. During the pandemic we are seeing how vulnerable many in our community are with the loss of income. Please donate to Faith in Action during the [Great Community Give](#).

For more information contact Bill Wilson: wwilson@umd.edu | phone 301.910.7366

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