



Centenary

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

August 23, 2020

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

(As the Prelude begins, you are invited to enter a time of prayer and meditation as we prepare to worship God together.)

The Prelude

Grace Flows Down

Padgett / Bell / Giglio

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The Greeting

The Hymn No. 117

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

ST. ANNE

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home! | 4. A thousand ages, in thy sight,
are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends the night,
before the rising sun. |
| 2. Under the shadow of thy throne,
still may we dwell secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defense is sure. | 5. Time, like an ever rolling stream,
bears all who breathe away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day. |
| 3. Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting, thou art God,
to endless years the same. | 6. O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come;
be thou our guide while life shall last,
and our eternal home. |

The Prayer of Confession

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Visit us, O God, with your protection and guidance.

Save us from the wrong we do not intend,

and rescue us from the poor choices we sometimes make.

Draw us out of the raging waters of our narrow conceits

to the wider vision you have for us.

Be a midwife to us as we seek new life in Christ.

May we find delight in your law and gain wisdom in your service. Amen.

The Psalter page 846 with response

Psalm 124

[The first response will be sung by the choir and then by everyone. All other responses will be sung by everyone.]

Response:

Charles Albert Tindley

When the storms of life are rag - ing, stand by me.

- 1 If it had not been the Lord who was on our side--
let Israel now say—
- 2 **if it had not been the Lord who was on our side,**
when foes rose up against us,
- 3 **then they would have swallowed us up alive,**
when their anger was kindled against us;
- 4 then the flood would have swept us away,
the torrent would have gone over us;
- 5 **then the raging waters**
would have gone over us.
- 6 Blessed be the Lord,
who has not given us
as prey to their teeth!
- 7 **We have escaped as a bird**
from the snare of the fowlers;
the snare is broken,
and we have escaped!
- 8 **Our help is in the name of the Lord**
who made heaven and earth.

Response

The Hymn No. 2120

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

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.

1. You moved on the waters,
you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains
from the valleys of sleep;
and over the eons
you called to each thing:
wake from your slumbers
and rise on your wings. ***Refrain***

2. You swept through the desert,
you stung with the sand,
and you goaded your people
with a law and a land;
and when they were blinded
with their idols and lies,
then you spoke through your prophets
to open their eyes.

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The Old Testament Lesson

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Sermon

Don't Follow the Spotlight

Dr. Matthew D. Bates

The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory Solo

The Lord's Prayer
Anne O'Byrne, soprano

Albert Hay Malotte

The Prayers of the People

The Silent Prayer
The Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer No. 895

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

The Hymn No. 2246

Deep in the Shadows of the Past

KINGSFOLD

1. Deep in the shadows of the past,
far out from settled lands,
some nomads traveled with their God
across the desert sands.
The dawning hope of humankind
by them was sensed and shown;
a promise calling them ahead,
a future yet unknown.
2. While others bowed to changeless gods
they met a mystery,
invisible, without a name:
"I AM WHAT I WILL BE";
and by their tents, around their fires,
in story, song and law,
they praised, remembered, handed on
a past that promised more.
3. From Exodus to Pentecost
the promise changed and grew,
while some, remembering the past,
recorded what they knew,
or with their letters and laments,
their prophecy and praise
recovered, kindled and expressed
new hope for changing days.
4. For all the writings that survived,
for leaders, long ago,
who sifted, copied and preserved
the Bible that we know,
give thanks, and find its story yet
our promise, strength and call,
the model of emerging faith,
alive with hope for all.

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The Benediction

The Postlude

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Healey Willan

We thank these persons who participated in worship this morning.

Senior Pastor:	Rev. Matthew D. Bates
Minister to Young Adults:	Rev. Drew Willson
Director of Music/Organist:	Stanley M. Baker
Pianist:	Lee Covington
Vocalist:	Anne O'Byrne
Video:	Rachel Bates, Dan Corcoran

Scripture

Exodus 1:8-2:10

The Israelites Are Oppressed

⁸ Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. ⁹ He said to his people, “Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. ¹⁰ Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.” ¹¹ Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. ¹² But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. ¹³ The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, ¹⁴ and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

¹⁵ The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, ¹⁶ “When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live.” ¹⁷ But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. ¹⁸ So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?” ¹⁹ The midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.” ²⁰ So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. ²¹ And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. ²² Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, “Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live.”

Birth and Youth of Moses

² Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. ² The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. ³ When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. ⁴ His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

⁵ The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. ⁶ When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. “This must be one of the Hebrews’ children,” she said. ⁷ Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?” ⁸ Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Yes.” So the girl went and called the child’s mother. ⁹ Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.” So the woman took the child and nursed it. ¹⁰ When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, “because,” she said, “I drew him out of the water.”