

Centenary

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

September 13, 2020

The Fifteenth 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

O How I Love Jesus

19th cent. USA melody

Welcome

The Opening Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Liberating God, we worship you.

**We praise you for delivering your people of old
from enslavement in Egypt by opening up
a new and unexpected future before them.**

**They experienced your grace and mercy
in awesome and life-sustaining ways
which must have been like an impossible dream coming true.**

**Through these acts you showed your compassion
for the weak and powerless of this world.**

**We praise and adore you for opening up
a new future for us when your love and compassion,
your mercy and grace became enfleshed in Jesus Christ.**

**He delivered us from the bondage of evil and sin
through his death on the cross.**

**The impossible once more became reality
when love defeated evil once and for all.**

**We pray that this time of worship
will be a true offering of our wonder and praise
that you should care for us so deeply and so faithfully.**

This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Hymn No. 315

Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain

ST. KEVIN

1. Come, ye faithful, raise the strain
of triumphant gladness;
God hath brought forth Israel
into joy from sadness;
loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke
Jacob's sons and daughters,
led them with unmoistened foot
through the Red Sea waters.

2. 'Tis the spring of souls today;
Christ hath burst his prison,
and from three days' sleep in death
as a sun hath risen;
all the winter of our sins,
long and dark, is flying
from his light, to whom we give
laud and praise undying.

3. Now the queen of seasons, bright
with the day of splendor,
with the royal feast of feasts,
comes its joy to render;
comes to glad Jerusalem,
who with true affection
welcomes in unwearied strains
Jesus' resurrection.
4. Neither might the gates of death,
nor the tomb's dark portal,
nor the watchers, nor the seal
hold thee as a mortal;
but today amidst the twelve
thou didst stand, bestowing
that thy peace which evermore
passeth human knowing.
5. "Alleluia!" now we cry
to our King immortal,
who, triumphant, burst the bars
of the tomb's dark portal;
"Alleluia!" with the Son,
God the Father praising,
"Alleluia!" yet again
to the Spirit raising.

The Old Testament Lesson

Exodus 14:19-31

Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Canticle No. 135 with response

Canticle of Moses and Miriam

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

Response:

Carlton R. Young

“Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods?
Who is like you, majestic in holiness,
terrible in glorious deeds, doing wonders?

**You stretched out your right hand,
the earth swallowed them.**

In your steadfast love,
you have led the people whom you have redeemed;
you have guided them by your strength to your holy abode.

Response

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The Epistle Lesson

Romans 14:1-12

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Hymn No. 134

O Mary, Don't You Weep

O MARY

All

O Mary, don't you weep, don't you mourn,
O Mary, don't you weep, don't you mourn;
Pharaoh's army got drowned, O Mary, don't you weep.

Choir

1. One of these mornings bright and fair,
goin'a take my wings and cleave the air;

All

Pharaoh's army got drowned, O Mary, don't you weep.

O Mary, don't you weep, don't you mourn,
O Mary, don't you weep, don't you mourn;
Pharaoh's army got drowned, O Mary, don't you weep.

Choir

2. When I get to heaven goin'a sing and shout,
ain't nobody there goin'a turn me out;

All

Pharaoh's army got drowned, O Mary, don't you weep.

O Mary, don't you weep, don't you mourn,
O Mary, don't you weep, don't you mourn;
Pharaoh's army got drowned, O Mary, don't you weep.

Choir

3. When I get to heaven goin'a put on my shoes,
goin'a run about and spread the news;

All

Pharaoh's army got drowned, O Mary, don't you weep.

O Mary, don't you weep, don't you mourn,
O Mary, don't you weep, don't you mourn;
Pharaoh's army got drowned, O Mary, don't you weep.

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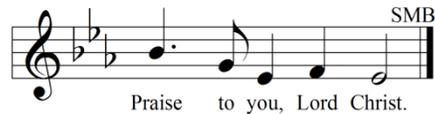
Leader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew.
People:



The Gospel Lesson

Matthew 18:21-35

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.
People:



The Sermon

Through Deep Waters

Dr. Matthew D. Bates

The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory Solo

He's Just the Same Today

African-American Spiritual
Arranged by Harry T. Burleigh

Anne O'Byrne, soprano soloist

When Moses and his soldiers from Egypt's land did flee,
His enemies were in behind him and in front of him the sea;
God raised the waters like a wall and opened up the way
And the God that lived in Moses' time is just the same today.

When David and Goliath met the wrong against the right,
The giant fought with human power but David with God's might;
God's power with David slung a stone and the giant low did lay
And the God that lived in David's time is just the same today.

Exodus 14:22; 1 Samuel 17:49

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. 2234

Lead On, O Cloud of Presence

LANCASHIRE

1. Lead on, O cloud of Presence,
the exodus is come,
in wilderness and desert
our tribe shall make its home.
Our slavery left behind us,
new hopes within us grow.
We seek the land of promise
where milk and honey flow.
2. Lead on, O fiery Pillar,
we follow yet with fears,
but we shall come rejoicing
though joy be born of tears.
We are not, though wandering,
for by your light we come,
and we are still God's people.
The journey is our home.
3. Lead on, O God of freedom,
and guide us on our way,
and help us trust the promise
through struggle and delay.
We pray our sons and daughters
may journey to that land
where justice dwells with mercy,
and love is law's demand.

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The Benediction

The Postlude

Postlude on LANCASHIRE

David Schack

We thank these persons who helped us in worship this morning.

Senior Pastor: Rev. Matthew D. Bates
Director of Music: Stanley M. Baker
Singers: Anne O'Byrne, Lynn Kotrady, Sam Cook
Video: Rachel Bates

Scriptures

Exodus 14:19-31

¹⁹ The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. ²⁰ It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. ²² The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ²³ The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. ²⁴ At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. ²⁵ He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

The Pursuers Drowned

²⁶ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." ²⁷ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸ The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. ²⁹ But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

³⁰ Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹ Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

Romans 14:1-12

Do Not Judge Another

¹⁴ Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions.

² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹² So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Matthew 18:21-35

Forgiveness

²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

²³ “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”