

Order of Worship

Sunday, 13 September 2020

Welcome & Announcements

Invitation to Silence

Prelude: *“It Is Well with My Soul” — Martha Meir*

Responsive Call to Worship –

L: – Sing to the Lord a new song! Sing praise in the assembly of God’s faithful.

All: – Let them praise God’s name with dancing, making melody with tambourine and lyre.

L: – Let the faithful triumph in glory; let them sing for joy.

All: – We will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously!

L: – Come, let us praise and worship the Lord together!

Prayer of Invocation

Hymn #127: “Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah”

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.

I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand.

Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,

Feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow;

Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.

Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,

Be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.

*When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee; I will ever give to thee.*

1st Scripture Reading – Exodus 14:19-31 NRSV

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.

Anthem: *“God of Grace” – Getty/Rea; arr. Larson*
 Steven A. Woods, Baritone | Cathy Regis-Green, Violin

2nd Scripture Reading – Matthew 18: 21-35 | NRSV

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.”

The Message – Pastor Susan Hadley: Mercy and Grace

Joys and Concerns

Hymn #390: “Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

*“Forgive our sins as we forgive,” you taught us Lord, to pray;
But you alone can grant us grace to live the words we say,*

*How can your pardon reach and bless the unforgiving heart
That broods on wrongs and will not let old bitterness depart?*

*In blazing light your cross reveals the truth we dimly knew:
What trivial debts are owed to us, how great our debt to you!*

*Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls, and bid resentment cease;
Then, bound to all in bonds of love, our lives will spread your peace.*

Benediction and Blessing

Postlude: “Hymns of Commitment” — arr. Philip Keveren