

Worship Service on Monday, September 11, 2023 at 6:30 PM

Quiet Time Prayer

**Lord God:
drop Thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of Thy peace. Amen.**

-- John Greenleaf Whitier (1807-1892)

Welcome

Greeting God is good **all the time**. All the time **God is good**.

Question of the Day What passes over the marked houses of the Israelites?

A) plague of frogs B) plague of gnats C) plague of hail d) plague of first-born death

***Hymn** "We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise"

***Call to Worship**

Praise the Lord! **We sing God's praise!**

Let the faithful sing for joy! **For God takes pleasure in God's people.**

***Prayer of Invocation**

Holy Spirit, as your word is read and preached, pass among your people, opening minds to increase understanding, opening hearts to bind us together in your love. In Jesus' name we ask it. Amen.

Exodus 12:1-14 *New Revised Standard Version*

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the Passover of the LORD. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

Matthew 18:15-20 New Revised Standard Version

[Jesus said to his disciples:] “If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

Romans 13:8-14 New Revised Standard Version

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Response: *The Word of God, for the people of God! Thanks be to God!*

***Hymn** “Kum Ba Yah”

Time of Prayer

How Is It With Your Soul?

Call to Confession

Amid the countless things that human beings cannot fully comprehend about God, there stands this: God so loves us as to bathe us with grace and feed us with mercy and forgive us our sins. Confident in the love of God, let us pray together.

Prayer of Confession

Lord God, while we were still slaves to sin, you died for our salvation. Yet we still worship the false gods of the world, forgetting that you are Lord. Loving worldly wealth, we have not loved you with our whole heart nor loved our neighbors as ourselves. Trusting worldly strength, we have not trusted your word nor followed the Word-made-flesh. Forgiving by worldly norms, we have not shown mercy to others as you have shown mercy to us. Forgive us yet again, we pray. *Time of Silent Prayer*

Assurance

Friends, hear the good news of the gospel: Who is in the position to condemn?

Only Christ. And Christ died for us; Christ rose for us;

Christ reigns in power for us; Christ prays for us.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

And with Jesus we pray:

The Lord's Prayer

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 who 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.

Answer to the Question of the Day

What passes over the marked houses of the Israelites?

- A) plague of frogs B) plague of gnats C) plague of hail d) plague of first-born death

What passes over the marked houses of the Israelites?

- A) ~~plague of frogs~~ B) plague of gnats C) plague of hail d) plague of first-born death

What passes over the marked houses of the Israelites?

- A) ~~plague of frogs~~ B) ~~plague of gnats~~ C) plague of hail d) plague of first-born death

What passes over the marked houses of the Israelites?

- A) ~~plague of frogs~~ B) ~~plague of gnats~~ C) ~~plague of hail~~ d) **plague of first-born death**

Time of Offering *Thank you to everyone for your faithful generosity.*

Offering Prayer

Ever-present God, just as Jesus promised to be among us when two or three gather in his name, be among us now that these offerings may become instruments of your love and justice. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

***Song of Offering** “As the Deer”

Message “Do We Cancel Each Other Out?” Rev. Joyce Rich

***Commission and Blessing**

We are God’s servants, sent on a mission.

Let us make God’s deeds known among the people.

Owe no one anything, except to love one another.

We will keep the commandment, “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Amen. **And Amen.**

***Hymn** “Mighty to Save”

Announcements

Read for Next Week Exodus 14:19-31; 15:1-6, 11-13, 17-18, 20-21; Matthew 18:21-35

*Liturgical resources drawn from: **Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion; Liturgies for Year A, Volume 2**, Kimberly Bracken Long, editor © 2014 Westminster John Knox Press; and **Taught by Love: Worship Resources for Year A**, Lavon Bayler © 1998 United Church Press.*