

## Worship Service on Sunday, September 17, 2023 at 10:15 AM

### Quiet Time Prayer

**Holy God, you offer us both protection and new challenges that can feel risky. Help us to boldly trust in you so we can faithfully follow in Christ's way. Amen.**

### Welcome

**Prelude** "Offertoire in E<sup>b</sup>" *Edward M. Read*

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

**Question of the Day** Direction wind comes from to push water and dry ground?

A) North B) East C) South d) West

**\*Hymn #129 UMH** "Give to the Winds Thy Fears"

### **\*Call to Worship**

Give praise to God! **Praise the Lord, for it is God who saves!**

It is God who forgives and who delivers. **Give thanks and praise to the Lord!**

### **\*Prayer of Invocation**

**Majestic God, you led our spiritual ancestors with a pillar of cloud that hid them by day and protected them by night. Strengthen and guide us with your Word through the power of your Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

### **Exodus 14:19-31 New Revised Standard Version**

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. 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.

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. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. 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. 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."

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." 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. 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. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. 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.

**Hymn #448 UMH** "Go Down, Moses" (*Verses 5-7 only*)

**Exodus 15:1-6, 11-13, 17-18, 20-21** #135 *UMH* (Read responsively; no sung response.)

**Hymn #519** *UMH* “Lift Every Voice and Sing”

**Matthew 18:21-35** *New Revised Standard Version*

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

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; 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. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. 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.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. 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. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from the heart.”

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

**Time of Prayer**

**How Is It With Your Soul?**

**Prayers of Intercession**

**O God, your unfailing love has been the source of our strength. It has led us through troubled waters and away from our enemies. In your infinite love, you have had pity on us and heard our cries. Because of your faithful love and mercy, we bring our concerns to you, O God.**

For the universal church – that it would be an instrument of your love, forgiveness, and grace.

**God in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

For the global community – that we would learn to live for each other in peace and cooperation, and share collective responsibility.

**God in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

For our local community of New London, and the surrounding area.

**God in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

For all who suffer in mind, body, or soul – may your arms wrap around all in love; and help us, the church, to respond with what is needed.

**God in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

For the silent intentions we hold in our hearts. (*Time of Silent Prayer*)

**God in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Glory be to God! 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**

Direction wind comes from to push water and dry ground?

A) North B) East C) South d) West

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

#### **Offering Prayer**

**God, you are unfailing in blessing and love. With thankful hearts, we offer up to you a portion of what you have given us. Multiply these gifts and enable the work of love you call us to each day. We thank and praise you. Amen.**

**\*Song of Offering #94 UMH** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

**Message** "Death or Forgiveness?" Rev. Joyce Rich

#### **\*Commission and Blessing**

We walk in the strength and confidence that God guides our feet.

Therefore we live for God --

**by showing mercy and loving one another.**

May the God who protects and defends keep us in safety, mercy, and love.

In the name of our Creator, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen. **And Amen.**

**\*Hymn #127 UMH** "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

#### **Announcements**

**Postlude** "Amazing Grace" *Wilbur Held*

**Read for Next Week** Exodus 16:2-15; Matthew 20:1-16

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.