

Sunday, September 27, 2020

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

Question of the Day:

What place was re-named Massah and Meribah? a) Canaan b) Rephidim c) Midian d) Elim

Hymn “Jesus Messiah”

Call to Worship

Come, let us remember God’s presence with us.

Let us give ear to all that God would teach us.

Our ancestors have told us about God’s might.

They have celebrated God’s wondrous deeds.

Through the sea, God provided safe passage.

In the wilderness of Sinai, God provided food and water.

Yet the Israelites questioned God’s presence.

They needed assurance amid their doubts.

Our doubts can lead to honest searching.

God welcomes questions that seek new truth.

We want to see God’s larger picture.

We want to broaden the scope of our concern.

Prayer of Invocation

O God, fill us with your Spirit and humble our hearts so we can hear your Word. Amen.

Exodus 17:1-7 *The Message*

Directed by GOD, the whole company of Israel moved on by stages from the Wilderness of Sin. They set camp at Rephidim. And there wasn’t a drop of water for the people to drink. The people took Moses to task: “Give us water to drink.” But Moses said, “Why pester me? Why are you testing GOD?”

But the people were thirsty for water there. They complained to Moses, “Why did you take us from Egypt and drag us out here with our children and animals to die of thirst?”

Moses cried out in prayer to GOD, “What can I do with these people? Any minute now they’ll kill me!”

GOD said to Moses, “Go on out ahead of the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel. Take the staff you used to strike the Nile. And go. I’m going to be present before you there on the rock at Horeb. You are to strike the rock. Water will gush out of it and the people will drink.”

Moses did what he said, with the elders of Israel right there watching. He named the place Massah (Testing-Place) and Meribah (Quarreling) because of the quarreling of the Israelites and because of their testing of GOD when they said, “Is GOD here with us, or not?”

Philippians 2:1-13 *NRSV*

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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

Time of Prayer

How Is It With Your Soul?

Unison Prayer

We marvel, O God, at the thought that you care about us. We are amazed that the Creator of the universe would take on human flesh to draw near to us in ways we could begin to understand. As Jesus emptied himself to serve, modeling your love even in the face of death, we seek to lay aside self-interest that we might take direction from you. Help us to humble ourselves in order to obey you, to listen in order to hear, to care in order to serve. Lead us day and night through the wilderness of our times. (Time of silent prayer.)

Let us join with Jesus in prayer:

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 place was re-named Massah and Meribah? a) Canaan b) Rephidim c) Midian d) Elim

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

Offering Prayer

We empty our pockets, trusting you, O God. We give because you have richly blessed us. We empty our selfish ambitions, believing that the common good is of greater concern. We reach out helping hands because we care about all those you have called us to love. May we share in the mind of Christ so that we can more fully demonstrate your love. Amen.

Message “T&Q or OM&L” Rev. Joyce Rich

Commission and Blessing

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ.

To God be the glory!

The blessing of God be with you, the love of Jesus fill you, and the power of the Holy Spirit sustain you, now and forevermore. Amen.

And Amen.

Hymn “All the People Said, ‘Amen’”

Announcements; Read For Next Week: Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Psalm 19:7-11, 14