

August 23, 2020
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

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GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Psalm 124)

Pastor: If it were not for God's presence with us, we would lack the strength to defeat whatever threatens to overtake us, engulf us, or swallow us alive!

Congregation: **Praise God who hears and answers our calls for help – even before we are able to utter the words!**

Pastor: We join our voices with the Psalmist to proclaim: Blessed be the name of the Lord – my Comfort, my Shelter, my Tower of Refuge and Strength.

Congregation: **Let our every breath – all that we are – never cease to worship the Lord. In our praying, in our listening, in our reading, and in our singing, may our deep love and gratitude for God, be known.**

HYMN

Shout to the Lord

[Verse 1]

My Jesus, my Savior.

Lord, there is none like you.

All of my days, I want to praise -

The wonders of Your mighty love.

[Verse 2]

My Comfort, my Shelter,

Tower of Refuge and Strength.

Let every breath, all that I am

Never cease to worship you.

[Chorus]

Shout to the Lord!

All the earth let us sing!

Power and majesty praise to the King!

Mountains bow down and the seas will roar -

At the sound of your name!

I sing for joy at the work of your hands.

Forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand.

Nothing compares to the promise I have in you.

[Verse 3]

My Jesus, my Savior.

Lord, there is none like you.

All of my days, I want to praise -

The wonders of your mighty love.

[Verse 4]

My Comfort, my Shelter,
Tower of Refuge and Strength.
Let every breath, all that I am
Never cease to worship you!

[Chorus]

Shout to the Lord!
All the earth let us sing!
Power and majesty praise to the King!
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar -
At the sound of your name.
I sing for joy at the work of your hands.
Forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand.
Nothing compares to the promise I have in you.

[Repeat Chorus]

Shout to the Lord!
All the earth let us sing!
Power and majesty praise to the King!
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar -
At the sound of your name.
I sing for joy at the work of your hands.
Forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand.
Nothing compares to the promise I have in you.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION¹ (Based on Exodus 1-2 and Romans 12:1-8)

All: *We thank you, O Lord, that we are not alone. You watch over us, guide us, and lead us in your ways. When we stumble and fall, you lift us up and gently place us on the righteous pathway again. When we doubt, you surround us with your mercy and peace, reassuring us of your presence through the love of others and of our savior Jesus Christ. Keep our hearts and minds open and ready to serve you. We ask this, because we confess that there are far too many times, O Lord, when we have neglected or ignored the needs of others because it just wasn't convenient for us to help. We backed away with excuses on our lips and indifference in our hearts. Forgive us and set us on the right path of service and compassion in the name of Jesus who modeled faithful living for us. Remind us that we are residents of a global community. Help us to hear the plight of those who have been voiceless. With the gifts that we have and the love of Christ, direct our lives in compassionate service to others in your name. Through Christ, we pray. Amen.*

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Through the abundance of God's mercy and forgiving love, you are empowered to be Christ's disciples, to reach out to others, to offer the words and deeds of hope in a struggling world. God's blessings are poured over you for service.

All: *Thanks be to God!*

¹ Townley, Nancy C. Worship Connection: August 23, 2020. <https://www.ministrymatters.com/worship/entry/8361/worship-connection-august-23-2020>

OLD TESTAMENT READING - Exodus 1:8-2:10

⁸ Eventually, a new king came to power in Egypt who knew nothing about Joseph or what he had done. ⁹ He said to his people, “Look, the people of Israel now outnumber us and are stronger than we are. ¹⁰ We must make a plan to keep them from growing even more. If we don’t, and if war breaks out, they will join our enemies and fight against us. Then they will escape from the country.”

¹¹ So the Egyptians made the Israelites their slaves. They appointed brutal slave drivers over them, hoping to wear them down with crushing labor. They forced them to build the cities of Pithom and Rameses as supply centers for the king. ¹² But the more the Egyptians oppressed them, the more the Israelites multiplied and spread, and the more alarmed the Egyptians became. ¹³ So the Egyptians worked the people of Israel without mercy. ¹⁴ They made their lives bitter, forcing them to mix mortar and make bricks and do all the work in the fields. They were ruthless in all their demands.

¹⁵ Then Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, gave this order to the Hebrew midwives, Shiphrah (pronounced Ship-ruh) and Puah: (pronounced Poo-ah) ¹⁶ “When you help the Hebrew women as they give birth, watch as they deliver.^[b] If the baby is a boy, kill him; if it is a girl, let her live.” ¹⁷ But because the midwives feared God, they refused to obey the king’s orders. They allowed the boys to live, too.

¹⁸ So the king of Egypt called for the midwives. “Why have you done this?” he demanded. “Why have you allowed the boys to live?”

¹⁹ “The Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women,” the midwives replied. “They are more vigorous and have their babies so quickly that we cannot get there in time.”

²⁰ So God was good to the midwives, and the Israelites continued to multiply, growing more and more powerful. ²¹ And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own.

²² Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: “Throw every newborn Hebrew boy into the Nile River. But you may let the girls live.”

About this time, a man and woman from the tribe of Levi got married. ² The woman became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She saw that he was a special baby and kept him hidden for three months. ³ But when she could no longer hide him, she got a basket made of papyrus reeds and waterproofed it with tar and pitch. She put the baby in the basket and laid it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile River. ⁴ The baby’s sister then stood at a distance, watching to see what would happen to him.

⁵ Soon Pharaoh’s daughter came down to bathe in the river, and her attendants walked along the riverbank. When the princess saw the basket among the reeds, she sent her maid to get it for her. ⁶ When the princess opened it, she saw the baby. The little boy was crying, and she felt sorry for him. “This must be one of the Hebrew children,” she said.

⁷ Then the baby’s sister approached the princess. “Should I go and find one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?” she asked.

⁸ “Yes, do!” the princess replied. So the girl went and called the baby’s mother.

⁹ “Take this baby and nurse him for me,” the princess told the baby’s mother. “I will pay you for your help.” So the woman took her baby home and nursed him.

¹⁰ Later, when the boy was older, his mother brought him back to Pharaoh’s daughter, who adopted him as her own son. The princess named him Moses, for she explained, “I lifted him out of the water.”

EPISTLE READING - Romans 12:1-8

So, brothers and sisters, because of God's mercies, I encourage you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice that is holy and pleasing to God. This is your appropriate priestly service. ² Don't be conformed to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you can figure out what God's will is—what is good and pleasing and mature.

³ Because of the grace that God gave me, I can say to each one of you: don't think of yourself more highly than you ought to think. Instead, be reasonable since God has measured out a portion of faith to each one of you. ⁴ We have many parts in one body, but the parts don't all have the same function. ⁵ In the same way, though there are many of us, we are one body in Christ, and individually we belong to each other. ⁶ We have different gifts that are consistent with God's grace that has been given to us. If your gift is prophecy, you should prophesy in proportion to your faith. ⁷ If your gift is service, devote yourself to serving. If your gift is teaching, devote yourself to teaching. ⁸ If your gift is encouragement, devote yourself to encouraging. The one giving should do it with no strings attached. The leader should lead with passion. The one showing mercy should be cheerful.

GOSPEL READING - Matthew 16:13-20

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea (pronounced: Sis-a-ree-ah) Philippi, (pronounced: Phil-ah-pie) he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

SERMON

Rev. Laura C. Bair

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And, lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERING INVITATION

Liturgist: Paul urged the Romans to respond to God's great gift of love by offering themselves as living sacrifices. This meant not conforming to the world's standards, but by being humble, and using one's gifts of time, talent, and treasure for God's service. God IS still alive and at work in the world through disciples, like you, and through the community of disciples called "the Church." In this moment of worship, please consider how God may be calling you to give, so that the world will know just how alive God really is! Now, let us dedicate our gifts of money, time, and talent and the very gift of ourselves using the Offertory Prayer as printed in our bulletins.

OFFERTORY PRAYER²

All: Dear God, bless us, and the gifts we offer - symbols of our thanks and our intention to minister with you. Use all that we are and all that we give to grant vision where there is confusion, protection where there is aggression, justice where there is prejudice, peace where there is violence, and hope where there is fear. In the name of our Savior, we pray. Amen.

² Ibid.

HYMN

Take My Life and Let it Be

Bulletin, Page 5

BENEDICTION³

Pastor: Beloved children of God.
The world awaits the love and gifts you have to offer.
So, go forth in joy and peace
to be God's witnesses this day
and all your days.

All: Amen.

³ Ibid.

Take My Life, 534 and Let It Be Consecrated

Consecrate yourselves and be holy. Leviticus 20:7

1. Take my life and let it be Con - se - crat - ed,
 2. Take my feet and let them be Swift and beau - ti -
 3. Take my sil - ver and my gold, Not a mite would
 4. Take my will and make it Thine, It shall be no

Lord, to Thee; Take my hands and let them move At the
 ful for Thee; Take my voice and let me sing Al - ways,
 I with - hold; Take my mo - ments and my days, Let them
 lon - ger mine; Take my heart, it is Thine own, It shall

im - pulse of Thy love, At the im - pulse of Thy love.
 on - ly, for my King, Al - ways, on - ly, for my King.
 flow in cease - less praise, Let them flow in cease - less praise.
 be Thy roy - al throne, It shall be Thy roy - al throne.

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HENDON
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