



Online Worship Resource (Sunday, June 19, 2022)

BOLD TYPE IS SPOKEN BY THE CONGREGATION

FLOWERS: Given to the glory of God by Margaret Yeboah in celebration of her grandson Remiel's birthday.

Prelude: "Prelude" by: David Maley

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship Andy Clay, Liturgist

Please stand as you are led and join me in our responsive Call to Worship:

When forces in the world threaten us,

when our bodies or minds or spirits turn against us,

there is One who seeks us,

One who meets us,

One who heals us,

One whose love washes over us and sets us free for joy.

This One is the Lord.

Come, let us worship the Lord, our God!

Opening Hymn: "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.

Call to Confession

(Liturgist)

Knowing that God longs to set us free from the sin that so easily dogs our steps, let us confess all that separates us from God and one another. Please pray with me. . .

Prayer of Confession

Holy One, God most High, grant us honesty to see ourselves and faith to confess our sins and seek your mercy. We have habits that enslave us and hurt our relationships with others. We are chained to our biases and addictions and self-righteousness. We have followed the siren song of idols, pursuing our own ways only to discover the despair of cynicism and greed and isolation. We need your liberating love and mercy, Lord! Forgive us and free us, we pray in Jesus' name.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Jesus Christ, Son of the Most High God, is sovereign even over the powers of evil, violence and death, so that his kingdom brings freedom and joy to all who seek it. Friends, this is good news!

By the power of God's Spirit, we are loved, forgiven, and set free to walk in new life. Hallelujah! Amen.

Response: Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ, all people here below;

Praise Holy Spirit evermore;

Praise Triune God, whom we adore.

Passing of the Peace

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Sacrament of Baptism:

Bryan Awere Dankyi and Brandon Osei Dankyi

Baptism Response:

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, cleansed by the blood of Christ our King;

Heirs of salvation, trusting the promise, faithfully now God's praises we sing.

Time with Children

Prayer for Illumination

(Liturgist)

Let us prepare our hearts to hear God's Word by praying together the Prayer for Illumination:

As you spoke to the Legions, O God, speak now to the forces that enslave us. By your Spirit, let your word illumine the darkness, and your light break through our delusions, that we may see your truth. Amen.

Scripture Reading Luke 8:26-39

²⁶ Then they arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. ²⁷ As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. ²⁸ When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, 'What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of

the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me' — ²⁹ for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) ³⁰ Jesus then asked him, 'What is your name?' He said, 'Legion'; for many demons had entered him. ³¹ They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss. ³² Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. ³³ Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

³⁴ When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. ³⁵ Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. ³⁶ Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. ³⁷ Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. ³⁸ The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹ 'Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.' So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Free at Last!

Rev. Michelle Fincher

Hymn after Sermon: "Live into Hope"

Live into hope of captives freed, of sight regained, the end of greed.
The oppressed shall be the first to see the year of God's own jubilee.

Live into hope! The blind shall see with insight and with clarity,
Removing shades of pride and fear, a vision of our God brought near.

Live into hope of liberty, the right to speak, the right to be,
The right to have one's daily bread, to hear God's word and thus be fed.

Live into hope of captives freed from chains of fear or want or greed.
God now proclaims our full release to faith and hope and joy and peace .

Call to offering

(Liturgist)

For the sake of all who are held in bondage and are in need of God's healing, liberating love, let us generously share the gifts God has entrusted to us. Please pray with me our prayer of dedication. . .

Prayer of Dedication

Triune God, through Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit, you bring hope to the despairing, healing to the sick, and release from bondage to all who are oppressed by violence and sin. Direct our gifts, we pray, to fulfill your purposes in us and in our world. For the sake of Christ, we ask it. Amen.

Prayers of the People and 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 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.

Closing Hymn: "Lift Every Voice and Sing"

Lift every voice and sing till earth and heaven ring, Ring with the harmonies of liberty. Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies; let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us; Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us. Facing the rising sun of our new day begun , let us march on, till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod, felt in the days when hope unborn had died. Yet, with a steady beat, have not our weary feet come to the place for which our parents sighed?

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered; We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered, out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way; thou who hast by thy might led us into the light, keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee; Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee; Shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand, True to our God, True to our native land.

Benediction

Postlude: Lift Every Voice and Sing

Today's Worship Participants:

Rev. Michelle Fincher, Judy Vicchellio, Director of Music,

David Maley, organ & piano,

Andy Clay, liturgist, and Glenn Fahrig, technology team