



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Fall Education Sunday
Sacrament of Communion
September 13, 2020 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Voluntary

Dorian Toccata

Johann Sebastian Bach

2019-2020 Ministry Highlights will be presented during the voluntary.

*Ringing of the Bell

The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.

*Call to Worship

Rev. Trajan I. McGill

God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger,
and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

We have gathered to hear the story of God and God's people.

It is a story of God's mercy and steadfast love.
It is our story, for we are God's people.

**Inspire us on our journey, dear God, to faithfulness,
to mercy, and to steadfast love.**

Let us worship God.

*Hymn 722

Lord, Speak to Me that I May Speak

Lord, speak to me that I may speak in living echoes of your tone.
As you have sought, so let me seek your erring children, lost and lone.
O lead me, Lord, that I may lead the wandering and the wavering feet.
O feed me, Lord, that I may feed your hungering ones with manna sweet.
O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the precious truths which you impart.
And wing my words that they may reach the hidden depths of many a heart
I fill me with your fullness, Lord, until my very heart o'er flow
In kindling thought and glowing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.
O use me, Lord, use even me, just as you will, and when, and where
until your blessed face I see, your rest, your joy, your glory share.

*Prayer of Confession

O God who is our strength, you have protected us from those who would seek to oppress us. You have shielded us from those who would seek to destroy the good gifts you have put in us. Your love and power never fail. Forgive us for uncertainty and self-absorption along the way of our journeys despite your faithfulness. Give us courage, resilience, and hope to sojourn the rites of passages which form our character. Hear now our silent prayers of confession.

*Sung Response

Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

*Declaration of Pardon

Friends, believe the good news: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
The peace of Christ be with you. Thanks be to God. Amen.

*Response of Praise

Gloria Patri

Remembering our Baptismal
Vows at the Font

First Scripture Reading Exodus 14:10-31

¹⁰ As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the LORD. ¹¹ They said to Moses, “Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? ¹² Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, ‘Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.” ¹³ But Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the LORD will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. ¹⁴ The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to keep still.” ¹⁵ Then the LORD said to Moses, “Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. ¹⁶ But you lift up your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. ¹⁷ Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. ¹⁸ And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers.”

¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ 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. ²¹ 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. ²² The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ²³ The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh’s horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. ²⁴ 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. ²⁵ God clogged^[a] 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.” ²⁶ 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.” ²⁷ 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. ²⁸ 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. ²⁹ But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ³⁰ Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹ 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 God’s servant Moses.

Music Somewhere Down the Road Amy Grant & Wayne Kirkpatrick

So much pain and no good reason why. You’ve cried until the tears run dry.
Nothing here can make you understand. The one thing that you held so dear
is slipping from your hands. And you say: Why does it go this way?
And why? And all I can say is somewhere down the road.
there’ll be answers to the questions. Somewhere down the road though
we cannot see it now. Somewhere down the road you will find
mighty arms reaching for you, and they will hold the answers at the end of the road

Yesterday I thought I’d seen it all; I thought I’d climbed the highest wall.
Now I see the learning never ends: and all I know to do is keep on walking,
walking around the bend saying: Why does it go this way?
Somewhere down the road, there’ll be answers to the questions.
Somewhere down the road you will find mighty arms reaching out for you,
And they will hold the answers at the end of the road.

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 18:21-35

²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church^[a] sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven^[b] times. ²³ "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents^[c] was brought to him; ²⁵ 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. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii;^[d] and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ 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. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister^[e] from your heart."

Meditation

The Rite of Passage

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Text: "Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea...and the waters were divided." Exodus 14:21

Introduction to the Offering

*Offertory Response

Doxology

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

Let us lift our hearts and give thanks to the Lord our God.

Let us pray. It is our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, eternal God, creator and ruler of the universe.... Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen. Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine.... Hear now the prayer Christ taught us to pray, saying:

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

Words of Institution

Music at the Communion *It is Well with My Soul* Philip B. Bliss

When peace like a river attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll.
Whatever my lot, though hast taught me to say it is well with my soul.

And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight;
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll.
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend.
Even so, it is well with my soul.

***Prayer after Communion** Holy God, your unfailing love, surprising mercy, and reliable nourishment we continue to be the source of our strength. You have led us through troubled waters and formed us in the rites of passage which are a part of the journey. Continue to guide our feet as we share the good news of who you are on the journeys we travel. In Christ's name, Amen.

***Hymn 503** **Lord, We Have Come at Your Invitation** O Quanta Qualia

Lord, we have come at your own invitation,
Chosen by you, to be counted your friends;
Yours is the strength that sustains dedication;
Ours, a commitment we know never ends.

Here, at your table, confirm our intention;
Give it your seal of forgiveness and grace;
Teach us to serve without pride or pretension,
Lord, in your kingdom, whatever our place.

When, at your table, each time of returning,
Vows are renewed and our courage restored,
May we increasingly glory in learning
All that it means to accept you as Lord.

*Charge and Benediction

***Voluntary** Menuet Léon Boëllmann

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) colleges and seminaries will be presented during the voluntary.

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

Worship Participants

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer, Pastor and Head of Staff
Rev. Trajan I. McGill, Associate Pastor for Parish Life
Karen Sherrick, Director for Children's Ministry
Dale Rogers, Organist and Director of Music and the Arts
Eleanor VanDeventer, Soprano Lyle VanDeventer, Bass
Bob Fox, Videographer Elsie Fox, Director
Pat Moore, Maribeth Norton, Brinton Wilkey, Ushers
Bill Deemer, Mary Ray, Communion Preparation Team
Marilyn Rigney, Safety Team