



"A Community Of Many Faithing Communities Where All Belong!"

Living Waters Contemplative Life Center | Divine Intervention Ministry to the Homeless

Tippecanoe just.good.food Garden | Food Justice Site PCUSA

Arts and Science Literacy Camps for Children

Welcome To Worship

July 9, 2023

9:30 a.m.



Miriam Leading the Women Across the Sea ~ Mary Therese Streck

Welcome to this time of being with God and each other.

"Living Boldly" Rev. Trish Eckert

✧Prelude: Zo Trembley

✧Welcome and community news

- Remember to send updates/announcements for our monthly newsletter to Janet Scheffel via email: tippecares@gmail.com
- Next Tippe night out: Friday, July 21 starting at 5:30 pm at South Shore Terrace Kitchen & Beer Garden
- Amazing Faiths Dinner Dialog: Wednesday, July 26th from 6-9 pm at the Islamic Society of Milwaukee. (You can catch a ride with Pastor Trish)
- Tippe Sunday morning worship on August 20th will be held at Plymouth UCC (2717 E Hampshire St - Milwaukee) A chance to worship with one of our partner churches and share experiences of our Divine Intervention ministry.
- Forward Scholars – volunteer opportunity as a tutor with Common Ground!

✧Readying Ourselves for Worship

***Surely God is in this place, Holy Ground!
Surely God is in this place,
Holy Ground!***

✧A Prayer as we Center Ourselves in this Moment

*God of the waters,
help me to know
that there will be wilderness,
but the wilderness
will turn to green land;
that there will be desert,
but in the desert
a spring;
that in the heart
of the rock
of my life
will begin to flow
a river
washing through
the chasm of my soul;
and that I will
walk wet with memory
when again I touch
dry land.*



“And the Spirit of God Moved Upon the Face of the Waters” ~ George Graham

✧Becoming Present to God and Each Other - Our Check-in

~ The Joy of Passing the Peace ~

✧Time for Young Hearts

✧Gathering as God's People: *Women in the Bible*

This summer we are mining the stories of women in the bible. We are seeking the wisdom of ancient stories that still speak to us today as we witness how women navigated their world, lived into their faith, and pursued their spirituality. Two weeks ago, when we began this journey in the Book of Genesis. We heard the story of Hagar and how, despite all of her suffering, she remained awake and aware to what was being revealed to her. We gleaned from her story how we might see the gifts and grace offered up to us, as well. This week we turn to the women in the Book of Exodus, and focus primarily on Miriam, the sister of Moses. When we look closely, we come to realize the pivotal roles Miriam filled that enabled Moses to be Moses and ultimately, for the Israelites to become a nation.

When we refer to the “historical” women of the Bible, we do not mean that all the details of their stories are historically accurate. The ancients’ concept of history was very different from ours. They were focused on expressing theological convictions rather than reporting events.

Today we are aware of the impossibility of total objectivity in reporting any occurrence. What is told and what is left out can powerfully affect the way the event is understood. It’s important to remember that the stories in scripture are shaped by various political, social, and theological agendas – some more obvious to us than others. These stories continue to be used for a variety of purposes and agendas – ultimately, my hope is that by tapping into the wisdom of these women, our self-awareness will deepen, and our spiritual paths will be further illuminated.

✧Gathering Hymn 201 *A Prophet-Woman Broke a Jar*

✧Opening Ourselves to God's Grace

A Litany to Honor Women (*Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals*)

ALL: We walk in the company of the women who have gone before, mothers of the faith both named and unnamed,

One: testifying with ferocity and faith to the Spirit of wisdom and healing.

They are the judges, the prophets, the martyrs, the warriors, poets, lovers and saints who are near to us in the shadow of awareness, in the crevices of memory, in the landscape of our dreams.

ALL: We walk in the company of Deborah,

One: who judged the Israelites with authority and strength.

ALL: We walk in the company of Esther,

One: who used her position as Queen to ensure the welfare of her people.

ALL: We walk in the company of you whose names have been lost and silenced,

One: who kept and cradled the wisdom of the ages.

ALL: We walk in the company of Miriam,

One: who helped save a nation.

ALL: We walk in the company of Mary Magdalene,

One: who wept at the empty tomb until the risen Christ appeared.

ALL: We walk in the company of Phoebe,

One: who led an early church in the empire of Rome.

ALL: We walk in the company of Perpetua of Carthage,

One: whose witness in the third century led to her martyrdom.

ALL: We walk in the company of Saint Christina the Astonishing,

One: who resisted death with persistence and wonder.

ALL: We walk in the company of Julian of Norwich,

One: who wed imagination and theology proclaiming “all shall be well.”

ALL: We walk in the company of Sojourner Truth,

One: who stood against oppression, righteously declaring, “Ain’t I a woman!” in 1852.

ALL: We walk in the company of the Argentine Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo,

One: who turned their grief to strength, standing together to remember “the disappeared” children of war with a holy indignation.

ALL: We walk in the company of Alice Walker,

One: who named the lavender hue of womanish strength.

ALL: We walk in the company of you mothers of the faith,

One: who teach us to resist evil with boldness, to lead with wisdom, and to heal.

ALL: Amen.

✧Sharing our Innermost Lives with God

May we walk with God
in the daily unfolding,
in the sharp pain of growing,
in the midst of confusion,
in the bright light of knowing.
May we live in God,
in Her constant compassion,

may ours increase in Her infinite
wisdom,
in Her passion for peace.
May we walk with God
and live in God
and remain with God forever. Amen.

✧Special Music

✧ Prayer of Intention

✧Bible Wisdom Teaching

Exodus 1:8-2:10

8 Now a new king arose over Egypt who did not know Joseph. 9 He said to his people, “Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. 10 Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.” 11 Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. 12 But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. 13 The Egyptians subjected the Israelites to hard servitude 14 and made their lives bitter with hard servitude in mortar and bricks and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

15 The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiprah and the other Puah, 16 “When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live.” 17 But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. 18 So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this and allowed the boys to live?” 19 The midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.” 20 So God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied and became very strong. 21 And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. 22 Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, “Every son that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live.”

2 Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. 2 The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. 3 When she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. 4 His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

5 The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. 6 When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. “This must be one of the Hebrews’ children,” she said. 7 Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?” 8 Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Yes.” So the girl went and called the child’s mother. 9 Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.” So the woman took the child and nursed it. 10

When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

Exodus 13: 17-18, 21

¹⁷ When Pharaoh let the people go...¹⁸ God led the people by the roundabout way of the wilderness bordering the Red Sea. ²¹ The LORD went in front of them in a pillar of cloud by day, to lead them along the way, and in a pillar of fire by night, to give them light, so that they might travel by day and by night.

Exodus 14: 19-23

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.

Exodus 15: 19-21

¹⁹ When the horses of Pharaoh with his chariots and his chariot drivers went into the sea, the Lord brought back the waters of the sea upon them, but the Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground.

²⁰ Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. ²¹ And Miriam sang to them:

"Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously;
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea."

One: May we hear anew the origin stories of our faith and draw from the roots of our tradition.

All: Thanks be to our God.

✧ **Message** “Living Boldly” Rev. Trish Eckert



“Jocheved, Miriam, and Moses” (illustration from the 1897 *Bible Pictures and What They Teach Us* by Charles Foster)

✧ **Reflection Questions**

- What do the women of Exodus model for you?
- How might you show up more boldly in your own life?
- When have you felt called to advocate for others?
- At what points on your journey has someone been present to you in meaningful ways?

✧ **Short period of silent reflection**



“The Well of Miriam” © Yoram Raanan

✧Sharing Our Wisdom

✧Hymn 7 *Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth*

✧Community Prayers & the Pastoral Prayer



“Miriam” ~ Sara Beth Baca

✧Words of Invitation and the Breaking of the Bread Communion of the People

Welcome

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Mother God of all nations and all peoples, we can marvel at the diversity of creation while at the same time rejecting it in one another. We can take the way you have dispersed us throughout the world and use it to create boundaries and walls rather than the opportunity for experiencing you anew. Your steadfast love defies our understanding. Your enduring patience is overwhelming. For the goodness of who you are, we give you thanks.

Jesus, Redeemer of all peoples, your love for us was demonstrated by your willingness to become one of us. You forwent the glory of heaven to experience the exhaustion, frustration, annoyance, prejudice, and indifference of the human condition. You experienced our shortcomings, yet you seem to love us all the more. For the grace of who you are, we give you thanks.

Holy Spirit, divine Corrector and Nurturer, you transform us ever more into the image of God. Your holy wisdom opens our eyes. Your holy truth guides our hearts. For the breath of life that you are, we give you thanks.

Holy Spirit, we pray that your breath of life would come to us today. In the words we speak:

 this bread is Christ's body,

 this cup is Christ's blood

May we truly share in the humanity of Christ's death so that we may also share in the eternity of Christ's resurrection.

Holy Trinity, begin our communion with you as we join our voices in the prayer of our faith, saying:

✧**The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father and Mother
who is in us here on earth,
holy is your name
in the hungry
who share their bread and their song.

Your Kingdom come,
which is a generous land
flowing with milk and honey.

Let us do your will,
standing up when all are sitting down,
and raising our voice
when all are silent.

You are giving us our daily bread
in the song of the bird and the miracle of
the corn.

Forgive us
for keeping silent in the face of injustice,
and for burying our dreams;
for not sharing bread and wine,

love and the land,
among us, now.

Don't let us fall into the temptation
of shutting the door through fear,
of resigning ourselves to hunger and
injustice,
of taking up the same arms as the
enemy.
But deliver us from evil.

Give us the perseverance and the
solidarity
to look for love,
even if the path has not yet been
trodden,
even if we fail;
so we shall have known your Kingdom
which is being built forever and ever.
Amen.

*(Latin American paraphrase of
the Lord's Prayer)*

Words of Invitation and the Breaking of the Bread

The journeys of the women throughout the Book of Exodus illustrate for us that we have a role to play in this world. Each of us are called to share our gifts and step into the flow of life, trusting that our actions make a difference. We are granted the joy of being God's hands and feet – faithfully living in ways that reflect the kingdom here and now.

Let us come to the Table and receive the grace of God.

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

Dear Jesus, we have come to your table with thanksgiving. We are so grateful for the communion we share, knowing that it extends beyond this Table to the ministry and fellowship of our life together. We give thanks for the opportunities to meet those who share our humanity despite different life experiences. We give thanks for a community that rejoices with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn.

May we continue to bear Christ to one another. Father/Mother God, may all we do be for your glory, this day and every day. Amen.

Communion liturgy adapted from the work and writings of Rev Michelle Henrichs

✧ **Benediction**

Thou who dwells at the crossroads,
bless the choices gone before,
the roads not taken,
the thresholds not crossed,
the lives not lived.

On the terrain that we have chosen
may we travel lightly,
shed of regrets
and shorn of illusions
of other landscapes
that we reckoned
and did not choose to cross.

Now that the worship has ended, may the service truly begin.

✧ **Our Response:**

Holy One, now we your servants go in peace. Your Word lives on in us.

✧ **Postlude**