



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
23 August 2020 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Voluntary

Concerto in F: Allegro

Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach

***Ringing of the Bell**

The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.

***Call to Worship**

Rev. Christian K. Choi

It is good to give thanks to you, O Lord,
to sing praises to you, O God Most High,

to declare your steadfast love in the morning
and your faithfulness by night.

For you, O Lord, have made us glad by your work;

at the work of your hands we sing for joy.

Let us worship our Creator God.

Psalm 92:1-2, 4

***Hymn 32**

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

Ellacombe

I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day.
The moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord who filled the earth with food.
God formed the creatures through the Word, and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye,
if I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky.

There's not a plant or flower below but makes thy glories known,
And clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from thy throne,
while all that borrows life from thee is ever in thy care,
and everywhere that we can be, thou, God, art present there.

***Invitation to Confession**

Rev. Trajan I. McGill

***Prayer of Confession**

O Christ, if we carry the name Christian, we are signs of your presence. Yet we confess that we sometimes hurt people through the misuse of power, rather than empowering others with your life-giving spirit. When we are discouraged ourselves, we are unable to be signs of joy or hope. Give us the courage and grace to move beyond the circumstances of our lives and live with power and integrity. 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

Children's Sermon Blessing of the Backpacks

First Scripture Reading 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 became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, ¹⁴ and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick 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 Shiphrah and the other Puah, ¹⁶ "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, 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, God gave them families. ²² Then Pharaoh commanded all God's people, "Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live." Amen.

Music Simple Gifts Shaker Tune, Joseph Brackett, Jr., arr.

Second Scripture Reading Romans 12:1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. Amen.

Sermon Hidden Figures

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Text: "But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live." -Exodus 1:18

Music Hallelujah

Leonard Cohen

Now, I've heard there was a secret chord
That David played, and it pleased the Lord
But you don't really care for music, do you?
It goes like this, the fourth, the fifth
The minor fall, the major lift
The baffled king composing Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah

Your faith was strong but you needed proof
You saw her bathing on the roof
Her beauty and the moonlight overthrew ya
She tied you to a kitchen chair
She broke your throne, and she cut your hair
And from your lips she drew the Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah

You say I took the name in vain
I don't even know the name
But if I did, well really, what's it to you?
There's a blaze of light in every word
It doesn't matter which you heard
The holy or the broken Hallelujah...

The Church at 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 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.

Introduction to the Offering

Music Be Thou My Vision

Irish Melody, Thomas Quigley, arr.

***Offertory Response** Doxology

***Prayer of Dedication** Almighty God, you took a baby from the Nile and through hidden figures
Empowered him to lead your people to the promised land.
Take our offerings and use them for your people
in this land and throughout your world.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

***Hymn 693** **Though I May Speak** Gift of Love

Though I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain,
as sounding brass and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within,
the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control;
our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
by this we worship, and are freed.

***Charge and Benediction**

***Voluntary** Concerto in F: Allegro Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach

(*) 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

Rev. Christian K. Choi, Associate Pastor for Family Ministry

Karen H. Sherrick, Director for Children's Ministry

Dale Rogers, Organist and Director of Music and the Arts

Ann Collins, Violin

Krista Steller, Oboe

Eleanor VanDeventer, Soprano

Lyle VanDeventer, Bass

Bob Fox, Videographer

Elsie Fox, Director

Sara Eldridge, Nancy Huston, and Mike Sundquist, Ushers

Rich Canady, Safety Team