

Knox & St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 17, 2023

Responsive Call to Worship

Praise the Lord.

Let us praise God together.

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is God's steadfast love;

as far as the east is from the west, so far God removes our sins.

So let us rejoice in God's gracious presence.

Let us praise the God of mercy together.

Hymn 708 When Israel was in Egypt's land

**1. When Israel was in Egypt's land,
let my people go!
oppressed so hard they could not stand,
let my people go!**

Refrain:

**Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land;
tell old Pharaoh let my people go!**

**2. The Lord told Moses what to do:
let my people go!
to lead the Hebrew people through,
let my people go!**

Refrain:

**Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land;
tell old Pharaoh let my people go!**

**3. As Israel stood by the waterside,
let my people go!
at God's command it did divide,
let my people go!**

Refrain:

**Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land;
tell old Pharaoh let my people go!**

**4. When they had reached the other shore
let my people go!**

they let the song of triumph soar,
let my people go!

Refrain:

Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land;
tell old Pharoah let my people go!

5. Lord, help us all from bondage flee,
let my people go!
and let us all in Christ be free,
let my people go!

Refrain:

Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land;
tell old Pharoah let my people go!

Prayer of Praise *(minister)*

Hymn 77 From all that dwell below the skies

1. From all that dwell below the skies
let the Creator's praise arise:
let the Redeemer's name be sung
through every land, in every tongue.

2. Eternal are your mercies, Lord;
eternal truth attends your word:
your praise shall sound from shore to shore,
till suns shall rise and set no more.

Prayer of Confession (congregation)

O God, we confess that our lives do not always reflect your transforming power. You are gracious, but we cling to judgment. You are kind, but we can be cruel. You are forgiving, but we nurse grudges and old wounds. You are filled with joy, but too often we are filled with dissatisfaction and complaints. Forgive us, O God, and fill us with your Holy Spirit this day, and make us new through Christ, your Son and our Saviour.

- silent confession -

The Lord's Prayer (Debts/Debtors)

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, the power, and the glory. For ever
and ever. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon *(minister)*

Hymn 645 Follow me, the Master said

1. 'Follow me,' the Master said:

we will follow Jesus.

By his word and Spirit led,

we will follow Jesus.

Still for us he lives to plead,

at the throne will intercede,

offers help in time of need;

we will follow Jesus.

2. Should the world and sin oppose,

we will follow Jesus.

He is greater than our foes;

we will follow Jesus.

On his promise we depend;

he will hear us and defend,

help and keep us to the end;

we will follow Jesus.

3. Though the way may dark appear,

we will follow Jesus.

He will make our pathway clear;

we will follow Jesus.

In our daily round of care,

as we plead with God in prayer,

with the cross which we must bear,

we will follow Jesus.

4. Ever keep that end in view;

we will follow Jesus.

All his promises are true;

we will follow Jesus.

When this earthly course is run,

and the Master says, 'Well done!'

life eternal we have won;

we will follow Jesus.

Responsive Reading Psalm 114 p. 563 NT & Psalms

¹When the Israelites escaped from Egypt—

when the family of Jacob left that foreign land—

**²the land of Judah became God's sanctuary,
and Israel became his kingdom.**

³The Red Sea saw them coming and hurried out of their way!

The water of the Jordan River turned away.

**⁴The mountains skipped like rams,
the hills like lambs!**

⁵What's wrong, Red Sea, that made you hurry out of their way?

What happened, Jordan River, that you turned away?

**⁶Why, mountains, did you skip like rams?
Why, hills, like lambs?**

⁷Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord,

at the presence of the God of Jacob.

**⁸He turned the rock into a pool of water;
yes, a spring of water flowed from solid rock.**

New Living Translation (NLT)

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Scripture Lessons

Exodus 14:19-31 p. 55 pew Bible

Romans 14:1-12 p. 277 NT & Psalms

Matthew 18:21-35 p. 36 NT & Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Weakness and . . .

Prayers of the People (*minister*)

Hymn 699 All the way my Saviour leads me

1. All the way my Saviour leads me;

what have I to ask beside?

Can I doubt his tender mercy

who through life has been my guide?

Heavenly peace, divinest comfort,

here by faith in him to dwell;

for I know, whate'er befall me

Jesus doeth all things well.

2. All the way my Saviour leads me,

cheers each winding path I tread,
gives me grace for every trial,
feeds me with the living bread.
Though my weary steps may falter,
and my soul athirst may be,
gushing from the rock before me,
lo, a spring of joy I see.

3. All the way my Saviour leads me,
oh the fullness of his love!
Perfect rest to me is promised
in my Father's house above.
When my spirit, clothed immortal,
wings its flight to realms of day,
this my song through endless ages,
'Jesus led me all the way!'

Offering & Offertory

***Doxology** **830 Praise God from whom all blessings flow**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Prayer of Dedication (congregation)

We give thanks to you, O God, because you have blessed us with so much. Yet we know that others have too little. Bless our gifts so they touch lives in need and become roots of justice in the world, for the sake of Jesus Christ, who sends us out in love. Amen.

Hymn **489 Help us to help each other, Lord**

1. Help us to help each other, Lord,
each other's cross to share;
let each our friendly aid afford
and feel each other's care.

2. Up into thee, our living Head,
let us in all things grow,
and by thy let sacrifice be led
the fruits of love to show.

**3. Drawn by the magnet of thy love
let all our hearts agree,
and ever to each other move,
and ever nearer thee.**

**4. This is the bond of perfectness,
thy spotless charity,
Oh let us still, we pray, possess
the mind that was in thee.**

Choral Blessing

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will be with you each hour of every day.
God will be there, watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.**

Benediction

Three-fold Amen

Piano Postlude