



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH FORT SCOTT, KANSAS

12th Sunday after Pentecost
August 23, 2020



SERVING THIS MORNING:
Music Director: Dr. Greg Turner
Worship Leader: Mert Barrows
Song Leader: Jackie Allison

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WIFI Network: FPC-WiFi Password: 620223380

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP:

You, who are many, are transformed to
become one in Christ.

**We, who are many, are called to worship God,
the Three in One.**

Let us worship God.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY:

Ever-present God,
who is at the side of every creature in creation,
renew our lives so that we may discern and do your will,
what is good and acceptable and perfect.

In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Exodus 1:8-2:10

⁸ Then a new king, to whom Joseph meant nothing, came to power in Egypt. ⁹ "Look," he said to his people, "the Israelites have become far too numerous for us. ¹⁰ Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country." ¹¹ So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labor, and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh. ¹² But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites ¹³ and worked them ruthlessly. ¹⁴ They made their lives bitter with harsh labor in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their harsh labor the Egyptians worked them ruthlessly. ¹⁵ The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiphrah and Puah, ¹⁶ "When you are helping the Hebrew women during childbirth on the delivery stool, if you see that the baby is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live." ¹⁷ The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live. ¹⁸ Then the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and asked them, "Why have you done this? Why have you let the boys live?" ¹⁹ The midwives answered Pharaoh, "Hebrew women are not like Egyptian women; they are vigorous and give birth before the midwives arrive." ²⁰ So God was kind to the midwives and the people increased and became even more numerous. ²¹ And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own. ²² Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: "Every Hebrew boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live." ¹ Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, ² and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. ³ But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. ⁴ His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him. ⁵ Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it. ⁶ She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said. ⁷ Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?" ⁸ "Yes, go," she answered. So the girl went and got the baby's mother. ⁹ Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So the woman took the baby and nursed him. ¹⁰ When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out of the water."

1. *Come, thou Almighty King, help us thy name to sing, help us to praise: Father, all glorious, o'er all victorious, come and reign over us, Ancient of Days.*
2. *Come, thou Incarnate Word, gird on thy mighty sword, our prayer attend: come, and thy people bless, and give thy word success: Spirit of holiness, on us descend.*
3. *Come, Holy Comforter, thy sacred witness bear in this glad hour; thou who almighty art, now rule in every heart, and ne'er from us depart, Spirit of power.*
4. *To thee, great One in Three, eternal praises be hence, evermore! Thy sovereign majesty may we in glory see, and to eternity love and adore!*

CALL TO CONFESSION:

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Confident in this ever-gracious, never-failing help, we come before the Lord, confessing our sin and seeking forgiveness.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Forgiving God,
we confess that we are conformed to this world.
We conform to this world's frantic pace,
too hectic to notice all the blessings you provide.
We conform to this world's reckless waste,
exploiting what you entrust to our care.
We conform to this world's shallow values,
oblivious to the giftedness of people different from us.
We conform to this world's impatient attitudes,
preferring the latest instead of the lasting.
Forgive our conformity and transform us, O God.
We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS:

If it had not been the Lord who was on our side,
we would now be lost in sin.

But it is the Lord who is on our side.

And so we are forgiven.

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Let us offer and receive the peace of Christ as a sign of God's grace and assurance of forgiveness.

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

God of all,
thank you for hearing these prayers:
For the human family with whom we share
this world—
those closest to us and those whose names we will
never know—
we give you thanks and ask your help in living into
our identity as your children.

For the world we share with all creation—
the plants and animals we see each day and
the wilderness we have never seen—
we give you thanks and ask your help in living
into our identity as stewards of your earth.

For local, national, and international leaders
those whose policies we appreciate and those
with whom we struggle—
we give you thanks and ask that you be at their side,
guiding them to act in justice and mercy.

For joys and concerns that occupy our
thoughts today—
those we have spoken aloud and those we
ponder inwardly—
we give you thanks and ask that you be at our side,
guiding us to recognize that our help is in the
name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

Hear the prayers we lift in silence for those we love. . . .
Accept and heed all these prayers,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

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.**

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION:

God of revelation,
mere flesh and blood cannot reveal divine truth;
only your Spirit can give that gift.
Be in my breath and voice, be in our ears
and understanding,
that through these words your Word
may be known. **Amen.**

SECOND READING: Romans 12:1-8

¹ Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. ³ For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. ⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

SERMON:

"Beyond Best In Show"

Rev. Brian Ellison
Stated Clerk, Synod of Mid-America

Apostle's Creed:

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE RECEIVING OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Almighty God,
you took a baby from the Nile
and used 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.**

CLOSING HYMN:

"Be Still, My Soul"

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- 1. Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side!
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain; leave to your
God to order and provide - in every change he
faithful will remain. Be still, my soul: your best, your heavenly
friend through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.***
- 2. Be still, my soul: your God will undertake
to guide the future as he has the past; your hope, your
confidence let nothing shake - all now mysterious
shall be bright at last. Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still
know his voice who ruled them while he dwelt below.***
- 3. Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
when we shall be forever with the Lord, when disappointment,
grief, and fear are gone, sorrow forgot, love's
purest joys restored. Be still my soul: when change and tears are
past, all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.***

***BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

Household Prayers

Morning

Today, O God,
help me receive your revelation that Jesus is the Messiah,
the Son of the living God.
It is in his name I pray. Amen.

Evening

Holy God,
for anything I did this day that was pleasing to you,
I give you thanks and pray that you use me to your glory;
for anything I did this day that was displeasing to you,
I ask your forgiveness and pray that you redeem me for your glory. Amen.