

WORSHIPPING GOD
September 13, 2020

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September Worship Series: “Through the Wilderness”

Today: “Into the Sea...the Road to Freedom”

Chiming of the Hour.....Dan Koger

Lighting of the Candles.....Dan Koger

Preparing for Worship.....Leslie Koger

*“Believe in a love that is being stored up for you like an inheritance,
and have faith that in this love*

*there is a strength and a blessing so large
that you can travel as far as you wish without having to step outside it.”*

(Rainer Maria Rilke, Letters to a Young Poet)

Prelude.....“Open My Eyes, That I May See”Charles H. Scott

Joan John, piano

Welcome to Worship.....Dan Koger

Call to Worship (Psalm 103)Starr Oliver

Let my whole being bless the Lord!

Let everything inside me bless his holy name!

Let my whole being bless the Lord

and never forget all his good deeds:

God made his ways known to Moses;

made his deeds known to the Israelites.

The Lord is compassionate and merciful, very patient, and full of faithful love.

Let my whole being bless the Lord!

Opening Prayer.....Samantha Quailes

Gracious God, we thank You for Your many and precious promises. Forgive us for the times when we take our eyes off You and slip into unbelief. Help us to keep our eyes fixed on Christ and the truth of Your Word. Help us to rest in You and trust all the issues of our lives into Your hands, in Jesus’ name, we pray, Amen.

Hymn..... “What a Mighty God We Serve”

Robin Duncan Family

What a mighty God we serve, what a mighty God we serve;
what a mighty God we serve, what a mighty God we serve!

What a mighty God we serve, what a mighty God we serve;
what a mighty God we serve, what a mighty God we serve!

Let us sing and praise the Lord, let us sing and praise the Lord;
let us sing and praise the Lord, let us sing and praise the Lord!

Let us shout and praise his name, let us shout and praise his name;
let us shout and praise his name, let us shout and praise his name!

What a mighty God we serve, what a mighty God we serve;
what a mighty God we serve, what a mighty God we serve!

What a mighty God we serve, what a mighty God we serve;
what a mighty God we serve, what a mighty God we serve!

What a mighty God we serve, what a mighty God we serve;
what a mighty God we serve, what a mighty God we serve!

Blessing for the New School Year (adapted from Stephanie Krause).....Kim Miller

This school year is ideal for no one

Not for teachers, not for parents. Not for students, not for administrators and staff

Hybrid, virtual, face-to-face

None are ideal for everyone

Parents are wondering, “How do I manage this?” Teachers are wondering, “How do I manage this?”

And for the many parents who are also teachers, there are no good answers.

For the kindergartener who has to begin their education this way and for the senior who ends it under these unusual circumstances.

This is not ideal.

For the college students and professors who are navigating this new school year together, seeking ways to build community through virtual and social distanced campuses.

This is not ideal.

For the preschoolers and young children who not understand it all, but who feel the anxiety from their parents and teachers who are saying,

“Do I sent my child to daycare, or do I find a way to stay home?”

“Do we open our preschool or do we remain closed?”

“What is safe?”

“What is the best choice?”

This is not ideal.

Even for the homeschool family, this year will be different. Opportunities for connecting with other families will be different. Fieldtrips and homeschool groups will not be the same as they were before.

This is not ideal.

Gracious and Loving God, fill us all, parents, teachers, students, staff, with courage and hope in the midst of the a school year that will look different.

Prepare hearts for new experiences, and open our eyes to wonder and joy in surprising places.

Help students find excitement and the ability to focus on learning.

Help teachers find understanding and grace and extra patience.

Help parents to find peace and grace in the midst of balancing the demands on them that come from this format that is not ideal.

We thank you Lord for the opportunity to learn and grow and show love to one another in new ways during unusual times. We ask your prayers for the technology, the computers, virtual textbooks, tablets and cell phones that will be the mode of learning for so many, give us all patience as we learn and adapt to this new way to learn and teach.

Help us all to be brave and kind, to support one another, and to be inspired in knowing that You are working in our midst. In Your Name we pray,

Amen.

Old Testament Lesson (Exodus 14:19-30).....Olivia Flick

God's messenger, who had been in front of Israel's camp, moved and went behind them. The column of cloud moved from the front and took its place behind them. It stood between Egypt's camp and Israel's camp. The cloud remained there, and when darkness fell it lit up the night. They didn't come near each other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord pushed the sea back by a strong east wind all night, turning the sea into dry land. The waters were split into two. The Israelites walked into the sea on dry ground. The waters formed a wall for them on their right hand and on their left. The Egyptians chased them and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and cavalry. As morning approached, the Lord looked down on the Egyptian camp from the column of lightning and cloud and threw the Egyptian camp into a panic. The Lord jammed their chariot wheels so that they wouldn't turn easily. The Egyptians said, "Let's get away from the Israelites, because the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt!"

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the water comes back and covers the Egyptians, their chariots, and their cavalry." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. At daybreak, the sea returned to its normal depth. The Egyptians were driving toward it, and the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the cavalry, Pharaoh's entire army that had followed them into the sea. Not one of them remained. The Israelites, however, walked on dry ground through the sea. The waters formed a wall for them on their right hand and on their left. The Lord rescued Israel from the Egyptians that day.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Meditation "Into the Sea...the Road to Freedom".....Dan Koger

Pastoral Prayer.....Dan Koger

Hymn.....“I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord”

Robin Duncan Family

I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever, I will sing, I will sing.

I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever, I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.

With my mouth will I make known Your faithfulness, Your faithfulness;

With my mouth will I make known Your faithfulness to all generations.

I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever, I will sing, I will sing.

I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever, I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.

Benediction.....Dan Koger

Postlude..... “The God of Abraham Praise”Hebrew Melody

Joan John, piano

Opportunity for Giving

For In-person Worship (Joan John, organ)

Prelude – “How Great Thou Art”.....Swedish Melody

Postlude – “March”.....Flor Peeters