



But
the midwives
feared God and did not
do as the king of Egypt
commanded them, but let
the male children live.

EXODUS 1:17, ESV

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 27, 2023

GATHERING

PRAYER FOR MEDITATION: *O Lord, you bind us together in love, to learn, to be healed, to grow, to serve. Be with us this day and open our hearts to the amazing opportunities to help others through the gifts we possess. In Jesus' glorious name, we pray. Amen.*

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

OPENING SENTENCES (*Psalm 103:8*)

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: The Lord is merciful and gracious
ALL: *slow to anger and abounding in love.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Courtney Bowen

PRELUDE

Prelude on O QUANTA QUALIA
Dr. Terry McRoberts

Matthews

CHORAL INTROIT

We Give You Praise
Chancel Choir

Beebe

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Elder Jeff Chambers

One: Our help is in the name of the Lord,
ALL: *who made the heavens and the earth.*
One: If it had not been the Lord who was on our side,
ALL: *then the flood would have swept us away.*
One: The God who saved Israel is still at work in the world,
ALL: *hearing the cries of the afflicted and setting God's people free.*
Thanks be to God!
One: Let us pray. Ever present God, who is at the side of every creature in creation,
ALL: *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.*

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN: 275 *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*

EIN' FESTE BURG

PRAISE GOD AND CONFESS OUR SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Courtney Bowen

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.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: Merciful God, we confess that we have conformed our lives to the ways of the world and not the ways of your kingdom.

ALL: *We think of ourselves too highly and regard others as lowly.*

One: We exalt possessions and power, when you alone are to be exalted.

ALL: *We let conflicts prevail over grace and divisions over harmony.*

One: Have mercy upon us, we pray.

ALL: *Forgive and transform us, that we may be holy and acceptable to you, discerning and doing your will. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.*

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: Through the abundance of God’s mercy and forgiving love, you are empowered to be disciples, to reach out to others, to offer the words and deeds of hope in a struggling world. God’s blessings are poured over you for this service.

ALL: *In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God. Amen.*

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: 447 We Are Forgiven**

WE ARE FORGIVEN

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: The peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: *And, also, with you.*

THE WORD

ANTHEM

Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring
Chancel Choir

Bach

MINUTE FOR MISSION: THE DISTRIBUTION OF GIFTS

Elder David Greene

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES TO NEW YOUTH MEMBERS

Molly Richardson

Logan Jones Rus Hardy Isaac Keel

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Libby Smith

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Rev. Courtney Bowen

***HYMN: 324 For All the Faithful Women**

NYLAND

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Elder Jeff Chambers

FIRST READING *Psalm 124:1-8 (page 572)*

Elder Jeff Chambers

One: This is the word of God for the people of God. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING *Exodus 1:8-2:10 (page 48-49)*

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: This is the word of God. The grass withers and the flower fades, but the word of the Lord endures forever. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

The Midwives

Rev. Courtney Bowen

RESPONSE

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (from *A Brief Statement of Faith*)

Elder Jeff Chambers

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the water of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long-silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying "Come, Lord Jesus!"

OFFERING

Elder Jeff Chambers

OFFERTORY

Interlude

Boely

Dr. Terry McRoberts

*Doxology (Tune: 606)

OLD HUNDREDTH

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. Amen.

*Dedicatory Prayer

Elder Jeff Chambers

SENDING

***HYMN: 700** *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

I'M GONNA LIVE

***CHARGE + BENEDICTION**

Rev. Courtney Bowen

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Walk in the Light
Chancel Choir

Purchase

POSTLUDE

Ceremonial March
Dr. Terry McRoberts

Sumsion