

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost | September 17th, 2023

\*Please stand

As you are able

**Welcome and Announcements**

Trinity Chimes

**Prelude** *Faith of Our Fathers* arr. Larry Clark

Christine Harper, flute

**\*Call to Worship:**

One: Cloud of Grace, pillar of hope

**All: You go before us into tomorrow making a path through the sea of yesterday's doubts.**

One: When we would clasp old worries to our hearts

**All: you open our eyes to that hope which paves the path ahead of us into the unknown.**

One: Call us onward, O God.

**All: Onward to the promised land.**

\*Hymn of Praise 2234 *Lead On, O Cloud of Presence* LANCASHIRE

1. Lead on, O cloud of Presence, the exodus is come,

in wilderness and desert our tribe shall make its home.

Our slavery left behind us, new homes with in us grow.

We seek the land of promise where milk and honey flow.

2. Lead on, O fiery Pillar, we follow yet with fears,

but we shall come rejoicing though joy be born of tears.

We are not lost, though wandering, for by your light we

come, and we are still God’s people. The journey is our

home.

3. Lead on, O God of freedom, and guide us on our way,

and help us trust the promise through struggle and delay.

We pray our sons and daughters may journey to that land

where justice dwells with mercy, and love is law’s

demand.

Opening Prayer

**Faithful God, from generation to generation you have guided us through the pathless wilderness of fear and hopelessness to new lands of promise and joy.  Guide our feet today and every day, so that we might always find our way, amen.**

Scripture Lesson Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21 (UMH135)

The Lord is my strength and my song,

and has become my salvation;

This is my God whom I will praise.

I will exalt my father’s God

who is mighty warrior,

whose name is Lord.

Pharaoh’s chariots and his host the Lord cast into the sea;

and his chosen officers are sunk in the Red Sea.

The floods cover them;

they went down into the depths like a stone.

Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in power,

your right hand, O Lord, shatters the enemy.

“Who is like you, O Lord, among the god’s?

Who is like you, majestic in holiness,

terrible in glorious deeds, doing wonders?

You stretched out your right hand,

the earth swallowed them.

In your steadfast Love,

you have led the people whom you have redeemed;

you have guided them by your strength to your holy abode.

Music of Preparation *Invocation* Craig Courtney

The Chancel Choir

**Scripture Lesson** Exodus 14:19-31

Sermon Saved

Musical Response

Prayers of the People

**Prayer of Confession:**

**Surprising God, you have an uncomfortable habit of showing up when we least expect, calling us to journeys we do not want to take.  To love our neighbor and the stranger, to answer the needs of the world around us, to see in others your divine image shining back, to participate in your liberating grace.  Soften our hearts so that we might be moved by the wonders around us, make us flexible so that we can respond to your call.  Amen.**

Leader: Hear the good news: God walked upon this earth

sharing our human life in Jesus Christ,

All: God has conquered sin and death forgiving us all

through Love and Grace

Leader: In the name of Christ, you are forgiven!

People: In the name of Christ, you are forgiven!

All: Glory to God, 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen

\*Passing of the Peace

Invitation Offering

Offertory *Two Gospel Favorites* arr. Larry Clark

Christine Harper, flute

\*Doxology 95 *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.

Amen.

\*Offertory Prayer

\*Sending Hymn 2246 *Deep in the Shadow of the Past* KINGSFOLD

1.Deep in the shadows of the past, far

out from settled lands, some nomads traveled

with their God across the desert

sands, The dawning hope of human kind by

them was sensed and shown; a promise calling

them ahead, a future yet unknow.

2. While others bowed to changeless gods they

met a mystery, in visible, with

out a name: “I AM WHAT I WILL

BE”; and by their tents, around their fires, in

story, song and law, they praised, remembered,

handed on a past that promised more.

3. From Exodus to Pentecost the

promise changed and grew, while some, remembering

the past, recorded what they

knew, or with their letters and laments, their

prophecy and praise recovered, kindled

and expressed new hope for changing days.

4. For all the writings that survived, for

leaders, long ago, who sifted, copied,

and preserved the Bible that we

know, give thanks, and find its story yet our

promise, strength and call, the model of emerging,

faith, alive with hope for all.

\*Benediction

Remember who you are, a child of God, known, named, loved, and called. Know that God - Source, Word, and Spirit - is our help from age to age. Go into the world to love and serve.

**Postlude**  *Vivace* (from *Sonata No. 1 in F Major*) G.F. Telemann

Christine Harper, flute

Liturgist: Don Finch

Stephen Minister: Shawne Sidles

Thank you to all of the volunteers and staff who made this service possible!

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“Lead On, O Cloud of Presence*”*

Words: Ruth Duck (Exod. 13:21-22)

“Deep in the Shadows of the Past”

Words: Brian Wren

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