

WORSHIP WITH A DIFFERENCE

September 13 2020



GATHERING WITH GOD

You are invited to light a candle in your home as we do in the church saying these words:

We light this candle to remind us of the presence of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, with us
We come to God, remembering we are the church, united by faith despite not being able to be
physically present to each other.

God is present with us and through us, to one another.

SONG: COME NOW IS THE TIME FOR WORSHIP

*Come, now is the time to worship
Come, now is the time to give your heart
Come, just as you are to worship
Come, just as you are before your God ... Come*

One day ev'ry tongue will confess You are God
One day ev'ry knee will bow
Still the greatest treasure remains for those
Who gladly choose you now

Come, now is the time to worship

Source: [LyricFind](#) Songwriters: Brian Robert Doerksen

Come Now Is The Time To Worship lyrics © Music Services, Inc

PRAYER OF PRAISE

We remember the water that gives life:

We remember

- the life -giving waters of our mothers' wombs
- how God's Spirit passed over the primordial waters at the Creation and brought order out of chaos
- how God brought new life to Noah, his family and the creation after the flood-waters
- the women who saved Moses and drew him out of the water and how God's power allowed Moses to part the water and lead his people to freedom

- God's mercy and justice which flows like a mighty river
- How Jesus invited the woman at the well to drink deeply of the water of eternal life to us.
How we are welcomed into God's family through the waters of baptism.

We remember and praise God for all God's goodness*

But we also confess our brokenness:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Almighty God, too often we have failed to love our neighbours and to do justice. We have failed to show mercy to others but expect it for ourselves. We have forgotten to be kind. Wake us up to see the violence, the injustice and oppression in our world. Wake us up to see the continued suffering of those who seek a safe place to live. In this COVID-19 pandemic let us not forget to show mercy and justice to those who are vulnerable health-wise and economically. Help us to see all of Your people as our family, all of creation as our home. Forgive us, help us to turn to You and to live into your ways of justice, peace and mercy. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God knows our hearts, and God knows when we desire to change how we view the world and how we live. God will help us onto right paths. God forgives us and in Christ restores us, to do God's work in this world. Know that you are a beloved child of God, and that there is always the time to do something new. Amen.

SONG: TIS NO 717 GIVE THANKS

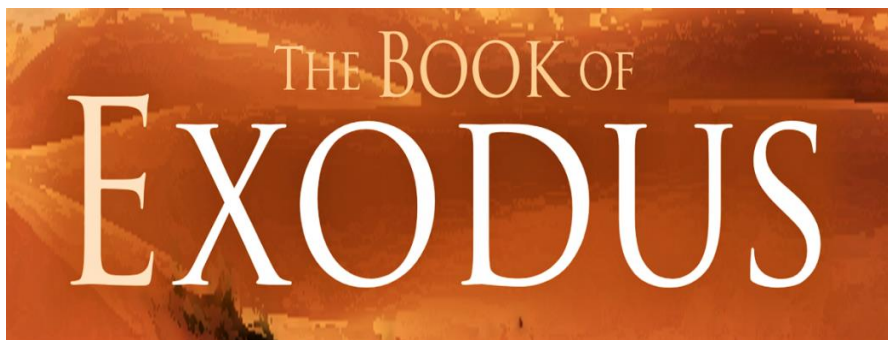
Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son (Repeat)

And now let the weak say, "I am strong"
Let the poor say, "I am rich"
Because of what the Lord has done for us" (Repeat)

Give thanks.....Give thanks!

- Henry Smith

HEARING GOD'S WORD



INTRODUCTION TO THE SERIES ON EXODUS: read p.4 of RESPOND and TODAY'S READING

EXODUS 1:8 - 2:10

⁸Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. ⁹He said to his people, “Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. ¹⁰Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.” ¹¹Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labour. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. ¹²But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. ¹³The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites,

¹⁴and made their lives bitter, forcing them to mix mortar and make bricks and do all the work in the fields. with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labour. They were ruthless in all their demands.

¹⁵The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, ¹⁶“When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live.” ¹⁷But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. ¹⁸So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?” ¹⁹The midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.” ²⁰So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. ²¹And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families.

²²Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: , “Throw very newborn Hebrew boy into the Nile, but you may let the girls live.”

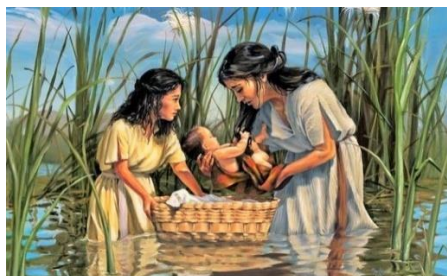
²Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. ²The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months.

³When she could no longer hide him, she got a basket made of papyrus reeds and waterproofed it with tar and pitch. She put the baby in the basket and laid it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile river. ⁴His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

⁵The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. ⁶When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, “This must be one of the Hebrews’ children,” she said. ⁷Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?” ⁸Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Yes.” So the girl went and called the child’s mother. ⁹Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.” So the woman took the child and nursed it. ¹⁰When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, “because,” she said, “I drew him out of the water.”

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

SERMON: *The Butterfly Effect: The Birth of Moses*



SONG TIS 161 TELL OUT MY SOUL

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of his word;
In God my Savior shall my heart rejoice

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his Name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
His mercy sure, from age to age to same;
His holy Name--the Lord, the Mighty One

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
To children's children and for evermore!

- Timothy Dudley-Smith

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Compassionate God we come before you today with our prayers knowing that you will hear us and help us and guide us.

We pray today for reconciliation and forgiveness in our own lives. We know that peace and justice and compassion will begin with us and we ask that the change we all so long for in the world would be present in our own lives and ripple out to others as we pray for them.

We lift up those in our neighborhood, in our city, and in our church. As your people help us to be salt and light, pointing others to you and your saving love. Deepen our love for you and for the people around us. Raise us up like the midwives of old, and like Moses' mother and sister to serve you faithfully at all costs.

We pray for

- * the people of Melbourne and in cities around the world in lockdown
- *those struggling in business and whose jobs are precarious or gone
- * medical people advising governments, researching vaccines and caring for the sick
- *residents and staff in aged care facilities longing to see their families
- *teachers and students in schools in this very disrupted year
- * the lonely and the lost, the sick and the bereaved
- * and those imprisoned behind visible and invisible walls.

Send your comfort, your peace, and your calming presence to those who are without hope. Hold us all close to your heart and sustain us in the midst.

Almighty God the world feels dangerous with Covid-19 continuing its spread, superpowers flexing their muscles and fires and storms causing damage across land and sea. Hear our prayers which we bring to you seeking your help and mercy.

As we enjoy the blossoms and Spring growth in our gardens, we pray for healing and renewal and hope in people's lives and in the whole Creation.

And we pray in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord of life who overcame evil and death itself.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.

OFFERING

You might like to take your offering or a symbol of it and hold it in your hands

Lord and giver of every good thing,
we bring to you our lives and our gifts
with the humble prayer that mercy and justice
may flow like a mighty river bringing new life and hope to the world. Amen.

SENDING OUT/BLESSING



Go into this new week giving thanks for the acts of mercy
of the women at the water of life.
Celebrate the strength and courage of Shiprah and Puah
who stood up to injustice and power.
Live out the love of parents like Jochebed
and the compassion and generosity of the Pharaoh's daughter
Bear witness in all that you do and say to the mercy and justice of the Living God
and to the hope you have through Jesus Christ God's Son
who makes all things new.

The Lord bless you and keep you
The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace .

SONG: WE SHALL GO OUT (Tune: Londonderry Air)

We shall go out with hope of resurrection;
we shall go out, from strength to strength go on;
we shall go out and tell our stories boldly;
tales of a love that will not let us go.
We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted;
we'll dream our dream of hurts that can be healed;
we'll weave a cloth of all the world united
within the vision of new life who sets us free.

We'll give a voice to those who have not spoken;
we'll find the words for those whose lips are sealed;
we'll make the tunes for those who sing no longer,
expressive love alive in every heart.
We'll share our joy with those who are still weeping,
raise hymns of strength for hearts that break in grief,
we'll leap and dance the resurrection story
including all in circles of our love.

June Boyce-Tillman

*adapted from a prayer By Katherine Low in *Before*, ed. Maren C Tirabassi & Maria I. Tirabassi, * *the Amen*,
Creative Resources for Worship p164

** Prayer adapted from Rev Mindi Welton-Mitchell, rev-o-lution.org.