

**Bethel United Church of Christ  
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 6, 2020  
Tune to FM 92.1 on your car radio**

*“The time is ripe for looking back over the day, the week, the year and trying to figure out where we have come from and where we are going to, for sifting through the things we have done and the things we have left undone, for a clue to who we are and who, for better or worse, we are becoming.*

Frederick Buechner , Christian

writer/Presbyterian minister 20C

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING SONG**

*“Rising”*

Bethel Praise Team

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

In faith, Moses and the Israelites set out for a new land.

**In faith, we seek to follow God in our lives.**

In faith, the church seeks to discern the future to which God calls us in our age.

**In faith, we gather now to worship, seeking new life in Christ.**

God of present, past and future, guide us now to your new age of promise. **Amen.**

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION** (unison)

**Gracious and holy God, we come to you because you first came to us. We know you because you have revealed yourself. Give us, in this morning hour of worship, a new sense of your Spirit breathing through us. Lift our hearts with the wings of song, heal our souls with the balm of prayer, enliven our minds with the words of scripture and enable us to dedicate our strength, our substance and our service to your work in the world. We pray in Christ's name. Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN#283**

*“Jesus, Stand Among Us”*

**Jesus, Stand Among Us** **283**

1. Je - sus, stand a - mong us in your ris - en pow'r.  
2. Breathe the Ho - ly Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry heart.

Let this time of wor - ship be a ho - ly hour.  
Bid the fears and sor - rows from each soul de - part.

## OUR SACRED STORIES

### Exodus 12:1-14

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

#### SPECIAL MUSIC

*"I Will Sing"*

Bethel Praise Team

#### MESSAGE

*"Remember, Restore, Renew"*

Rev. Karen J. Aitkens

#### \*HYMN#663

*"Go Down Moses"*

## Go Down, Moses

*Unison*

1. When Is - rael was in E - gypt's land;  
 2. No more shall they in bond - age toil,  
 3. The Lord told Mo - ses what to do,  
 4. Then Mir - iam danced and sang her song,  
 5. Oh, let us all from bond - age flee,

*Harmony* *Unison*

1. let my peo - ple go, op - pressed so hard they  
 2. let my peo - ple go, let them come out with  
 3. let my peo - ple go, to lead the He - brew  
 4. let my peo - ple go, "Our God has tri - umphed  
 5. let my peo - ple go, and let us all in

*Harmony*

1. could not stand, let my peo - ple go.  
 2. E - gypt's spoil, let my peo - ple go.  
 3. chil - dren through, let my peo - ple go.  
 4. o - ver wrong!" Let my peo - ple go.  
 5. Christ be free, let my peo - ple go.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/LORD'S PRAYER** (*forgive us our sins...*)**OFFERING OF OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

Invitation

Offertory

*"Worthy of Worship"*

by Mark Hayes

Chad Willis

Response

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow.**Praise God all creatures here below.**Praise God above the heavenly host**Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Prayer of Dedication

# CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation

Words of Institution

Sharing of Cup and Bread

## Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

We give thanks, O God, because in your own free gift of love you have reached out to us. You have refreshed us at your table, touched our deepest needs and called us to a life shared in memory and hope. Send us forth with courage and joy in the name of Jesus the Christ, that we too may become bread and peace for one another and the world. Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN#480

*"I Love to Tell the Story"*

**I Love to Tell the Story** 480

1. I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove, of  
2. I love to tell the sto - ry; 'tis pleas - ant to re - peat what  
3. I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best seem

Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love. I love to  
seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet. I love to  
hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest. And when, in

tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know 'tis true; it sat - is - fies my  
tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard the mes - sage of sal -  
scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song, 'twill be the old, old

long - ings as noth - ing else can do.  
va - tion from God's own ho - ly word. I love to tell the sto - ry, 'twill  
sto - ry that I have loved so long.

be my theme in glo - ry, to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

The image shows a page of a hymn book with musical notation for the hymn "I Love to Tell the Story". The page is numbered 480. The music is written in G major and 4/4 time. It features a treble and bass staff with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are arranged in three verses. The first verse is: "1. I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove, of". The second verse is: "2. I love to tell the sto - ry; 'tis pleas - ant to re - peat what". The third verse is: "3. I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best seem". The lyrics continue: "Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love. I love to seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet. I love to hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest. And when, in tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know 'tis true; it sat - is - fies my tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard the mes - sage of sal - scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song, 'twill be the old, old long - ings as noth - ing else can do. va - tion from God's own ho - ly word. I love to tell the sto - ry, 'twill sto - ry that I have loved so long. be my theme in glo - ry, to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love."

## COMMISSION/BENEDICTION

We have been blessed today and have felt the pouring out of your Spirit.

**As we continue our journeys, we have made a covenant to hold one another in love.**

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer help us to *remember the past, restore our faith and renew our commitment to live in peace and harmony*. Listen! Live! Love! Go in peace. Amen.

## POSTLUDE

*“Go Down Moses”*  
Chad Willis

by Mark Hayes