

# Beulah Presbyterian Church

Digital Worship ~ November 15, 2020



## WELCOME

## BUCKET SUNDAY

## CALL TO WORSHIP

## HYMN

*When Israel Was in Egypt's Land*

*When Israel was in Egypt's land,  
Let my people go,  
oppressed so hard they could not stand,  
Let my people go.*

**Refrain:** *Go down, Moses, way down in  
Egypt's land, tell old Pharaoh: Let my  
people go.*

*The Lord told Moses what to do,  
Let my people go,  
to lead the Hebrew children through,  
Let my people go. [Refrain]*

*As Israel stood by the waterside,  
Let my people go,  
at God's command it did divide,  
Let my people go. [Refrain]*

*When they had reached the other shore,  
Let my people go,  
they let the song of triumph soar,  
Let my people go. [Refrain]*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, you have asked us to be like Moses—standing up for your people, standing up for justice.

**But too often we are like Pharaoh—holding onto power, or holding onto privilege.**

God, you ask us to be like Aaron—who stood by his brother to unravel systems of oppression.

**But too often we align with Pharaoh—saying “no” to change and unraveling your vision for justice and peace.**

Forgive us for all the ways we stand on the wrong side of history.

**Forgive us for the harm we do to your planet, and for the harm we do to your children.**

Help us to be like Moses.

**Forgive us when we're like Pharaoh. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVING GRACE

Righteousness does not come from our own doing or not doing. Righteousness comes from God, by faith. Through the faithfulness of Christ, our Lord, we are forgiven.

## SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

## TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Holly G. Knott

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**God of unending surprises, this life is a tapestry of moments woven together, and we long to be weavers of love. Today we gather and pray that you would unravel our bias. Unravel our assumptions. Unravel whatever it is that keeps us from you. And as you do, clear space in our hearts for your Word. We are listening. We are praying. Amen.**

## READING OF GOD'S WORD

Exodus 5:1-2; 7:8-23

*Afterward Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'Let my people go, so that they may celebrate a festival to me in the wilderness.'" But Pharaoh said, "Who is the Lord, that I should heed him and let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, and I will not let Israel go."*

*The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "When Pharaoh says to you, 'Perform a wonder,' then you shall say to Aaron, 'Take your staff and throw it down before Pharaoh, and it will become a snake.'" So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and did as the Lord had commanded; Aaron threw down his staff before Pharaoh and his officials, and it became a snake. Then Pharaoh summoned the wise men and the sorcerers; and they also, the magicians of Egypt, did the same by their secret arts. Each one threw down his staff, and they became snakes; but Aaron's staff swallowed up theirs. Still Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the Lord had said.*

*Then the Lord said to Moses, "Pharaoh's heart is hardened; he refuses to let the people go. Go to Pharaoh in the morning, as he is going out to the water; stand by at the river bank to meet him, and take in your hand the staff that was turned into a snake. Say to him, 'The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, sent me to you to say, "Let my people go, so that they may worship me in the wilderness." But until now you have not listened. Thus says the Lord, "By this you shall know that I am the Lord."*

*See, with the staff that is in my hand I will strike the water that is in the Nile, and it shall be turned to blood. The fish in the river shall die, the river itself shall stink, and the Egyptians shall be unable to drink water from the Nile.'" The Lord said to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Take your staff and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt—over its rivers, its canals, and its ponds, and all its pools of water—so that they may become blood; and there shall be blood throughout the whole land of Egypt, even in vessels of wood and in vessels of stone.'" "*

*Moses and Aaron did just as the Lord commanded. In the sight of Pharaoh and of his officials he lifted up the staff and struck the water in the river, and all the water in the river was turned into blood, and the fish in the river died. The river stank so that the Egyptians could not drink its water, and there was blood throughout the whole land of Egypt.*

*But the magicians of Egypt did the same by their secret arts; so Pharaoh's heart remained hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the Lord had said. Pharaoh turned and went into his house, and he did not take even this to heart.*

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

**SERMON**

Being Hard-Hearted

Rev. Dr. Diane M. Baldwin

**TIME FOR REFLECTION**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**BENEDICTION**

*Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land,  
tell old Pharaoh: Let my people go.*