

# Presbyterian Church of Easton



**Our Purpose is**  
**“To live and love like Christ”**

Rev. Dr. Barbara Johnson.....Worship Leader  
Mr. Robert Huntington.....Director of Music  
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# **PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EASTON**

**Order of Morning Worship**

**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 17, 2023**

**10:00 A.M.**



## **THE CHURCH GATHERS**

### **WORDS OF GREETING**

LITURGIST: This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Welcome to the Presbyterian Church of Easton where our purpose is to live and love like Christ. On behalf of the officers, staff, and members of the Presbyterian Church of Easton, I welcome both those joining us by streaming and those present in our sanctuary to this morning's worship. I want to extend a special welcome to those who are visiting with us this morning. If you have questions about the programs or mission of PCE, you may talk with the pastor, officers, or other members of the church. I invite you to read all of the announcements in the bulletin and call special attention to...

## **PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

LITURGIST: Let us pray: God of might and mercy, the heavens and the earth are full of your glory. Your love transforms our lives. You enter our confusion and give insight. You bear our grief and bring healing. You see our fatigue and renew strength. You sense our fear and spark courage. You know death and raise up new life. So, we come before you in worship, handing over to you all that weighs us down. Renew us in this time of worship, we pray, so that we may serve you with joy in Jesus' name. Amen.

## **MUSICAL MEDITATION**

*Jubilant Fanfare*

**BELLS**

*Composed by Kevin McChesney.*

*Published by Choristers Guild, 1992.*

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## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

LITURGIST: When the tides of fear seem to overwhelm us, we cry out.

**ALL: Lord, come to us and lead us to paths of safety!**

LITURGIST: When we feel lost and alone and we wonder if anyone cares about us, we cry out.

**ALL: Lord, come and heal our wounded spirits!**

LITURGIST: When turbulence within and without seem to threaten us, we cry out.

**ALL: Lord, bring us peace.**

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!

"Thus saith the Lord," bold Moses said:  
Let my people go!  
"If not, I'll smite your first-born dead,"  
Let my people go! (Refrain)

"No more shall they in bondage toil,"  
Let my people go!  
"Let them come out with Egypt's spoil,"  
Let my people go! (Refrain)

*African American spiritual, Melva Costen.  
Published by Presbyterian Publishing / Westminster John Knox/ Geneva Press, 1990.  
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## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

LITURGIST: We are not here to pass judgment on each other: all of us have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Therefore, let us go before God as we offer our confession.

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**ALL: God our Judge, we admit we have double standards. We seek forgiveness for ourselves but fail to forgive others. We seek relief for ourselves but fail to seek relief for others. We seek leniency for ourselves but fail to show mercy to others. Forgive us, mighty God, and help us to forgive, showing others the same grace and mercy that you have generously shown to us.**

## **SILENT PRAYER**

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

LITURGIST: People of God, hear and believe: God does not deal with us according to our sins but according to God's own steadfast love for us.

**ALL: As far as the east is from the west, so far God removes our sins from us. Thanks be to God!**

**\*GLORIA PATRI**     *To God the Father*

To God the Father, Son  
and Spirit one in three,  
Be glory as it was, is now,  
and shall forever be.

*(ST. MICHAEL) PUBLIC DOMAIN.  
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**THE PEACE**

LITURGIST: As God has given us peace through Christ, so let us  
pass the peace of Christ to each other.

The peace of Christ be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

*(Greet each other with a sign or handshake, whichever you are comfortable with.)*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

LITURGIST: Let us pray for illumination: God of wisdom, prepare  
our hearts and minds to receive your Word. Where it challenges  
us, lead us by your Spirit to respond in faithfulness for the sake of  
Christ, who gives us both courage and compassion. Amen.

## FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 114

LITURGIST: The earth shakes and the sea retreats in the presence of the Lord. Listen for and to the word of God.

<sup>1</sup>When Israel went out from Egypt,  
the house of Jacob from a people of strange language,

<sup>2</sup>Judah became God's sanctuary,  
Israel his dominion.

<sup>3</sup>The sea looked and fled;  
Jordan turned back.

<sup>4</sup>The mountains skipped like rams,  
the hills like lambs.

<sup>5</sup>Why is it, O sea, that you flee?  
O Jordan, that you turn back?

<sup>6</sup>O mountains, that you skip like rams?  
O hills, like lambs?

<sup>7</sup>Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the LORD,  
at the presence of the God of Jacob,

<sup>8</sup>who turns the rock into a pool of water,  
the flint into a spring of water.

LITURGIST: The Word of the Lord

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

## SPECIAL MUSIC

*Praise for the Morning*

**BELLS**

*Composed by Michael Akers.*

*Published by Lorenz Publishing Company, 2010.*

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*\*Please stand, if able.*

## SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 14: 19-31

REV. JOHNSON: At the sea, God delivers the Israelites from the Egyptian army. Listen for and to the word of God.

<sup>19</sup> The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them.

<sup>20</sup> It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

<sup>21</sup> Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided.

<sup>22</sup> The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

<sup>23</sup> The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers.

<sup>24</sup> At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic.

<sup>25</sup> He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

<sup>26</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers."

<sup>27</sup> So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea.

<sup>28</sup> The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained.



<sup>29</sup> But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

<sup>30</sup> Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.

<sup>31</sup> Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

REV. JOHNSON: The Word of the Lord

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

**MESSAGE “The Lord Saved” REV. DR. BARBARA JOHNSON**

**\*THE APOSTLES’ CREED**

**ALL: I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**\*HYMN**     *Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain*

**SEE SLIDES**

Come, ye faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness;  
God hath brought forth Israel into joy from sadness;  
Loosed from Pharoah's bitter yoke Jacob's sons and daughters;  
Led them, with unmoistened foot, through the Red Sea waters.

Egypt's army followed them; chariots, drivers, horses.  
At the morning watch the Lord looked on Egypt's forces.  
Terror, fright, alarm and fear caused them all to flee.  
But the waters covered them, drowned them in the sea.

Horse and rider swept away by the flood and fury.  
Thus the Lord saved Israel through His might and glory.  
In your steadfast love, O God, Jacob's sons and daughters;  
Walked on dry land through the sea, through the Red Sea waters.

*Composed by John of Damascus, Bob Huntington, Arthur Sullivan (ST. KEVIN).  
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## **INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**     *Kum ba Yah*

**PIANO, BOB HUNTINGTON**

*African American spiritual.  
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**\*DOXOLOGY**     *All Things are Thine*

SEE SLIDES

All things are Thine, no gift have we,  
Lord of all gifts, to offer Thee;  
And hence with grateful hearts today  
Thine own before Thy feet we lay.

*Composed by John Whittier, J.S. Bach (HERR JESU CHRIST).*

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**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

*(The offering plates come forward, take them, and place them on the table.)*

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

**ALL: 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  
debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into  
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom  
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**\*HYMN**     *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

PH#281

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,  
Pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;  
Hold me with Thy powerful hand;



*Today's flowers were given by Ethel Keefer in memory of my husband, Richard E. Crass, on our anniversary (September 1<sup>st</sup>).*

*We welcome and thank our liturgist, June Bittinger, for leading us this Sunday morning.*