

Riverside United Methodist Church

Juneteenth Sunday • June 21, 2020 • 9:30 AM

**** The people will rise in body or spirit.**

GATHERING

Gathering Music

Daniel Kuhn, piano

Call to Worship

****Opening Hymn**

Lift Every Voice and Sing

UMH 519

1 Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty;
let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that dark past has taught us;
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.

2 Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
yet with a steady beat, have not our wary feet
come to this place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered; we
have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
out of the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

3 God of the weary years, God of our silent tears,
thou who has brought us thus far on the way;
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God where we met thee;
lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.

****Invocation**

All: Holy and righteous God, you created us in your image. Grant us grace to contend fearlessly against evil and to make no peace with oppression. Help us, like those of generations before us who resisted the evil of slavery and human bondage in any form and any manner of oppression. Help us to use our freedoms to bring justice among people and nations everywhere, to the glory of your Holy name through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gathering the Community

Exchange of Peace

THE WORD

Hebrew Reading Exodus 3:1-12 (CEB)

Sandy Hunter, liturgist

Moses was taking care of the flock for his father-in-law Jethro, Midian's priest. He led his flock out to the edge of the desert, and he came to God's mountain called Horeb. The LORD's messenger appeared to him in a flame of fire in the middle of a bush. Moses saw that the bush was in flames, but it didn't burn up. Then Moses said to himself, Let me check out this amazing sight and find out why the bush isn't burning up. When the LORD saw that he was coming to look, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" Moses said, "I'm here." Then the LORD said, "Don't come any closer! Take off your sandals, because you are standing on holy ground." He continued, "I

am the God of your father, Abraham's God, Isaac's God, and Jacob's God." Moses hid his face because he was afraid to look at God. Then the LORD said, "I've clearly seen my people oppressed in Egypt. I've heard their cry of injustice because of their slave masters. I know about their pain. I've come down to rescue them from the Egyptians in order to take them out of that land and bring them to a good and broad land, a land that's full of milk and honey, a place where the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites all live. Now the Israelites' cries of injustice have reached me. I've seen just how much the Egyptians have oppressed them. So get going. I'm sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I to go to Pharaoh and to bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" God said, "I'll be with you. And this will show you that I'm the one who sent you. After you bring the people out of Egypt, you will come back here and worship God on this mountain."

Special Music

Go Down, Moses
Arr. Mark Hayes

Daniel Kuhn, piano

Pastoral Prayer

**Gradual

Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God

TOWNEND

Holy Spirit, living Breath of God,
breathe new life into my willing soul.
Let the presence of the risen Lord
come renew my heart and make me whole.
Cause your Word to come alive in me.
Give me faith for what I cannot see.
Give me passion for your purity.
Holy Spirit breathe new life in me.

**Epistle Reading Philemon 1:8-16 (CEB)

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church
All: Come, Holy Spirit.
One: A reading from the Epistle to Philemon
All: Glory to you, O God.

Therefore, though I have enough confidence in Christ to command you to do the right thing, I would rather appeal to you through love. I, Paul—an old man, and now also a prisoner for Christ Jesus—appeal to you for my child Onesimus. I became his father in the faith during my time in prison. He was useless to you before, but now he is useful to both of us. I'm sending him back to you, which is like sending you my own heart. I considered keeping him with me so that he might serve me in your place during my time in prison because of the gospel. However, I didn't want to do anything without your consent so that your act of kindness would occur willingly and not under pressure. Maybe this is the reason that Onesimus was separated from you for a while so that you might have him back forever—no longer as a slave but more than a slave—that is, as a dearly loved brother. He is especially a dearly loved brother to me. How much more can he become a brother to you, personally and spiritually in the Lord!

One: Living Spirit, Living Word
All: Thanks be to God!

**Response (sung in Latin)

Gloria, Gloria

UMH 72

Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo! (Glory, Glory, to God in the highest!)
Gloria, Gloria! Alleluia! Alleluia! (Glory, Glory! Alleluia! Alleluia!)

Sermon

Juneteenth: The Gospel of Liberation

Rev. Keith A. Turner

THE EUCHARIST

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Invitation to Holy Communion

One: The Gospel writers tell of our Risen Savior, who at table with two of the disciples took bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened and they recognized the Risen Christ in the breaking of the bread.

All: In company with all believers in every time and beyond time, we come to this table to know the Risen Christ in the breaking of the bread.

The Words of Institution

One: On the night you were betrayed, you took the bread. After giving thanks, you broke it and said, "This is my body, broken for you, and as you eat it, remember me.

All: This is my body broken for you, and as you eat it, remember me.

One: On the night you were betrayed, you held the cup. After giving thanks, you lifted it up. "This is my life, pouted out for you, and as you drink it, remember me.

All: This is my life poured out for you, and as you drink it, remember me.

One: So, we thank you for the wine and for the bread. For we see the love you gave and the life that you shed.

All: And we remember your wondrous love. You have your body; you shed your blood. And we remember your wondrous love, you gave your Spirit to live in us.

The Lord's Prayer

And now, with the confidence of children of God, we are bold to pray the prayer Christ has taught us, saying:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive 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.

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Hymn during Communion

Go Down, Moses

UMH 448

1 When Israel was in Egypt's land,
let my people go;
oppressed so hard they could not stand,
let my people go. R

Refrain

Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land;
tell old Pharaoh to let my people go!

2 The Lord told Moses what to do,
let my people go;
to lead the tribe of Israel through,
let my people go. R

3 For you the cloud shall clear the way,
let my people go;
a fire by night, a shade by day,
let my people go. R

4 We need not always weep and moan,
let my people go;
and wear these slavery chains forlorn,
let my people go. R

****Prayer of Thanksgiving**

SENDING

****Closing Hymn**

Let My People Seek Their Freedom

UMH 586

1 “Let my people seek their freedom
in the wilderness awhile,
from the slave pens of the Delta,
from the ghettos on the Nile”:
so God spoke from out of Sinai,
so God spoke and it was done,
and a people crossed the waters
toward the rising of the sun.

2 “Let my people seek their freedom
in the wilderness awhile,
from the aging shrines and structures,
from the cloister of the aisle”:
so the Son of God has spoken,
and the storm clouds are unfurled,
for God’s people must be scattered
to be servants of the world.

3 When we murmur on the mountains
for the old Egyptian plains,
when we miss our ancient bondage,
and the hope, the promise, wanes;
then the rock shall yield its water
and the manna fall by night,
and with visions of a future
shall we march toward the light.

4 In the maelstrom of the nations,
in the journeying into space,
in the clash of generations,
in the hungering for grace,
in our agony and glory,
we are called to newer ways
by the Lord of our tomorrows
and the God of earth’s todays.

****Benediction**

Sending Music

Daniel Kuhn, piano

Announcements this Week

Tuesday, June 16; 9:30AM – Bibles & Bagels (West Side Park)

Thursday, June 18; 7:30AM – Thursday Morning Men’s Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)