

First Presbyterian Evanston

September 3, 2023 – 10 a.m.

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

FOCUS

Prelude

Go Down, Moses

(Music: African American Spiritual)

When Israel was in Egypt's land, Let my people go! Oppressed so hard they could not stand, Let my people go! Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land:

Tell old Pharaoh, let my people go!"

"Thus saith the Lord," bold Moses said... "If not, I'll smite your firstborn dead"...

"No more shall they in bondage toil,"... "Let them come out with Egypt's spoil"...

EXALT

Welcome & Call to Worship

Leader: Who is our God?

All: The Lord, who made the heavens and the earth.

Who has this God been?

The God who saved Israel and is still at work in the world.

Who do you say that our God is?

The same God in Jesus Christ who took on flesh and lived among us.

Where do you see this God today?

The same God in the Holy Spirit unites us and inspires us to witness to the God's love, God's mercy, God's justice in this Body.

Thanks be to God!

Let us worship the Living God!

Opening Hymn

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* (Blue Hymnal #376)

*(Words: Charles Wesley, 1747; Music: Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1831;
CCLI Song #742349)*

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,
All Thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving spirit
Into every troubled breast!
Let us all in Thee inherit,
Let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver,
Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above;
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing,
Glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish, then, Thy new creation:
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in Thee;
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon

(From Psalm 139:19, 51)

All: Our Father, we come to you this morning, knowing that you know our hearts better than we know them ourselves. You see the deceit, the bitterness, the hurt, the resentment, and even the dark places hidden away that we are afraid to look at. And yet you still offer grace for us, if we tell you what we have done or thought that is wrong. So, we ask you to search us, O God, and know our hearts; test us and know our anxious thoughts. Point out anything that offends you and lead us in the path of everlasting life. Amen.

Please hear our silent prayers of confession now, Lord.

(Silent Prayer)

Amen.

Romans 8 says, "If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own son, but gave him up for us all, how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?"

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Song of Response

Living Hope

(Words & Music: Phil Wickham & Brian Johnson; CCLI Song #7106807)

How great the chasm that lay between us.
How high the mountain I could not climb.
In desperation I turned to heaven
And spoke Your name into the night.
Then through the darkness Your loving-kindness
Tore through the shadows of my soul.
The work is finished, the end is written.
Jesus Christ, my living hope.

Who could imagine so great a mercy?
What heart could fathom such boundless grace?
The God of ages stepped down from glory
To wear my sin and bear my shame.
The cross has spoken; I am forgiven.
The King of kings calls me His own.
Beautiful Savior, I'm Yours forever.
Jesus Christ, my living hope.

Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free!
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me!
You have broken every chain.
There's salvation in Your name.
Jesus Christ my living hope.

Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free!
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me!
You have broken every chain.

There's salvation in Your name.
Jesus Christ my living hope.

Then came the morning that sealed the promise,
Your buried body began to breathe.
Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me.

Then came the morning that sealed the promise,
Your buried body began to breathe.
Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me.

Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free!
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me!
You have broken every chain.
There's salvation in Your name.
Jesus Christ my living hope.

Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free!
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me!
You have broken every chain.
There's salvation in Your name.
Jesus Christ my living hope.

Jesus Christ, my living hope.
O God, You are my living hope.

ENCOUNTER

Children's Moment

Passing the Peace of Christ

Scripture

Exodus 5:1-23; 6:1-9; 7:1-4, 17

Moses: “Pharaoh, This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘Let my people go, so that they may hold a festival to me in the wilderness.’”

Pharaoh: “Who is the LORD, that I should obey him and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD and I will not let Israel go.”

Moses: “The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Now let us take a three-day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the LORD our God, or he may strike us with plagues or with the sword.”

Pharaoh: “Moses...why are you taking the people away from their labor? Get back to your work!”...

Then the slave drivers and the overseers went out and said to the people, “This is what Pharaoh says: ‘I will not give you any more straw. Go and get your own straw wherever you can find it, but your work will not be reduced at all.’” So the people scattered all over Egypt to gather stubble to use for straw. The slave drivers kept pressing them, saying, “Complete the work required of you for each day, just as when you had straw.” And Pharaoh’s slave drivers beat the Israelite overseers they had appointed, demanding, “Why haven’t you met your quota of bricks yesterday or today, as before?” Then the Israelite overseers went and appealed to Pharaoh: “Why have you treated your servants this way?...

Pharaoh: “Lazy, that’s what you are—lazy! That is why you keep saying, ‘Let us go and sacrifice to the LORD.’ Now get to work. You will not be given any straw, yet you must produce your full quota of bricks.”

The Israelite overseers realized they were in trouble when they were told, “You are not to reduce the number of bricks required of you for each day.” When they left Pharaoh, they found Moses and Aaron

waiting to meet them, and they said, “May the LORD look on you and judge you! You have made us obnoxious to Pharaoh and his officials and have put a sword in their hand to kill us.”

Moses to God: “Why, Lord, why have you brought trouble on this people? Is this why you sent me? Ever since I went to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has brought trouble on this people, and you have not rescued your people at all.”

The LORD: “Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh: Because of my mighty hand he will let them go; because of my mighty hand he will drive them out of his country.... ” “Therefore, say to the Israelites: ‘I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God.’...”

Moses reported this to the Israelites, but they did not listen to him because of their discouragement and harsh labor.

The Lord said to Moses: You shall speak all that I command you, and your brother Aaron shall tell Pharaoh to let the Israelites go out of his land. But I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and I will multiply my signs and wonders in the land of Egypt. When Pharaoh does not listen to you, I will lay my hand upon Egypt and bring my people the Israelites...out of the land of Egypt by great acts of judgment.... “By this you shall know that I am the Lord.”

Anthem of Response

“Their Land Brought Forth Frogs”

from the oratorio *Israel in Egypt*

(Text from Psalm 105:30, Exodus 11:9-10, compiled by Charles Jennens;

Music: G.F. Handel, 1739)

Their land brought forth frogs, yea, even in their king’s chambers.

He gave their cattle over to the pestilence;

blotches and blains broke forth on man and beast.

Sermon

WORK ZONE

Rev. Dr. Tassie Green, Interim Senior Pastor

RESPOND

Sharing of Tithes and Offerings

Hymn of Response

Great God, Your Love Has Called Us Here, v. 1, 3, 5*

(Blue Hymnal #353)

(Words: Brian Wren, 1973; Music: tune “St. Catherine,” Henri Frederick Henry, 1864;

CCLI Song #7110205)

Great God, your love has called us here

As we, by love, for love were made.

Your living likeness still we bear,

Though marred, dishonored, disobeyed.

We come, with all our heart and mind

Your call to hear, Your love to find.

Great God, in Christ You call our name
And then receive us as Your own
Not through some merit, right, or claim
But by Your gracious love alone.
We strain to glimpse Your mercy seat
And find You kneeling at our feet.

Great God, in Christ You set us free
Your life to live, Your joy to share,
Give us Your Spirit's liberty
To turn from guilt and dull despair
And offer all that faith can do
While love is making all things new.

Doxology & Offering Prayer

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (*Blue Hymnal* #592)
(*Words: Thomas Ken, 1695, 1709; Music: Genevan Psalter, 1551; CCLI Song #56204*)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

*All who are truly sorry for their sins, who sincerely believe in the Lord Jesus as their Savior,
and who desire to live in obedience to Him, are invited to take communion.*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(Prayer)... we sing the ageless hymn of your glory:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

(Prayer)... he opened wide his arms and gave himself in love.

Great is the mystery of faith. Christ has died, Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

Communion Music

“The Lord is My Strength and My Song”

from the oratorio *Israel in Egypt*

(Text from Exodus 15:2, compiled by Charles Jennens;

Music: G.F. Handel, 1739)

The Lord is my strength and my song;

He is become my salvation.

The Apostles' Creed

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 Spirit, 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Closing Song

Who You Say I Am

(Words & Music: Ben Fielding & Reuben Morgan; CCLI Song #7102401)

Who am I that the highest King
Would welcome me.
I was lost, but He brought me in,
Oh, His love for me.
Oh, His love for me.
Who the Son sets free,
Oh, is free indeed.
I'm a child of God,
Yes I am.

Free at last,
He has ransomed me.
His grace runs deep.
While I was a slave to sin,
Jesus died for me.
Yes, He died for me.

Who the Son sets free,
Oh, is free indeed.
I'm a child of God,
Yes I am.

In my Father's house
There's a place for me.
I'm a child of God,
Yes I am.

I am chosen, not forsaken.
I am who You say I am.
You are for me, not against me.
I am who You say I am.

I am chosen, not forsaken.
I am who You say I am.
You are for me, not against me.
I am who You say I am.

Who the Son sets free,
Oh, is free indeed.
I'm a child of God,
Yes I am.

In my Father's house
There's a place for me.
I'm a child of God,
Yes I am.

In my Father's house
There's a place for me.
I'm a child of God,
Yes I am.

Sending & Benediction

Postlude

Improvisation on the theme "Go Down, Moses"

(Arr. Rebecca Chu)

Today's Worship Service Leaders

Michelle Mariposa, Maximiliano Illanes, Soloists/Worship Leaders
Crofton Coleman, Worship Band Director, Vocals, Keyboard
Hannah Dixon McConnell, Dir. Of Worship & Music, Vocals, Piano
Dr. Rebecca Chu, Organist; **Tina Laughlin**, Percussion

Rev. Dr. Tassie Green, Interim Senior Pastor, Welcome, Children's Message, Peace, Sermon, Offering Invitation & Offering Prayer, Communion, Sending & Benediction

Caryl Weinberg, Dir. of Mission, Confession

May Tchao, Ash Hardin, Dr. Benjamin Fergus, Rev. Esther Acolatse, Scripture Readers
Betsey Newenhuyse, Elder, **Ellen Gabrielse**, Deacon, **Bob Bastian, LeRoy Klemt, Karen McLeod, Peter Steffen, Gordon Stromberg, Marge Stromberg, May Tchao**, Communion Servers

Evan Peters, A/V Coordinator, Live Audio

Mike Campbell, A/V Volunteer, Projection

Jacob Collins, A/V Volunteer, Video Switcher

John Carlson, A/V Volunteer, Online Chat

Jason Allen, Building Staff

Carol Clanton, Stephanie Keene, Usher

Kaci Smith, Greeter

Bob Hecker, Angel Samuel, Prayer Companions

Christian Education & Childcare

The Nursery will be open from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

Youth/Children's Faith Formation activities will return September 18. Look for more information on the church website.

Join us outside after the service (weather permitting) for "Lemonade on the Lawn," a time of fellowship hosted by the Deacons!

First Presbyterian Church
1427 Chicago Avenue, Evanston, IL 60201
(847) 864-1472 Fax:(847) 864-1494
E-mail address: info@firstpresevanston.org
www.firstpresevanston.org

Mission Statement:
***First Presbyterian Church of Evanston
exists to know Christ and to grow in him
as we serve and make disciples in Evanston, the Chicago area,
and the world.***



This QR code will take you to a web page with links for giving and recording your attendance at today's service via the Connect Card.

Texts in today's service are reproduced by permission from the following: Presbyterian Hymnal: Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs. Copyright 1990. Westminster/John Knox Press, CCLI License #253526. OneLicense #A-804550.

Welcome! We're glad you are here. We ask everyone to complete and return this page. Please tear it off from the stapled bulletin, to slip to the offering basket every week. September 3, 2023

Your Name

Family members' names/ages

Street Address, City, State, Zip

Phone: Cell Home

Email address

- Send me the weekly E-newsletter
- First time visitor
- Occasional attendee
- Regular attendee/member

- Single
- Married
- Have children at home
- Junior/High School student
- College student/Graduate student

I'm interested in:

- Knowing Jesus better
- I need prayer or support
- I would like to speak with a pastor
- Joining a Small Group
- Joining the Welcome Team
- Worship Music Team
- Sound/AV/Video Team
- Prayer Team
- Becoming a Member
- I need a Stephen Minister
- Communion at home suggested for
_____ (name)

Please pray for:
(This is shared with pastors & confidential prayer team)

First Friends Picnic—Sign up to Volunteer!

The annual First Friends Picnic is next Sunday, September 10, from 3-6 p.m. at Garden Park! Bring a salad or dessert to share, and beach chairs or a blanket—our Syrian Friends will do all the grilling!

Volunteers are needed to assist with set up and clean up. Learn more & sign up here: <http://firstpresevanston.org/friends>.

SNAPGap Donations due September 11

Interfaith Action seeks donations of shampoo, toothpaste, and toothbrushes for the monthly Producersmobile at the Robert Crown Community Center. Items can be purchased and delivered from Amazon or dropped off at **St. Mark's Episcopal Church**. First Pres is NOT accepting donations. Details: <http://firstpresevanston.org/snapgap>

Watch Party—Bright Stars of Bethlehem Virtual Gala

Saturday, September 16 | FREE | 5:45 p.m. Dinner, 7 p.m. Virtual Gala

You're invited to the "Recipe for Hope" 2023 Virtual Gala! Dinner will include fellowship, a Palestinian Dinner, a virtual message from Dr. Mitri Raheb (Founder/ President of Dar-al-Kalima University), and a Palestinian student from Bethlehem Bible College will share his experience of life in Bethlehem.

To RSVP & Register visit <http://firstpresevanston.org/Gala2023>

Life Together Class for New Members

Sundays, September 24-October 15 | 11 a.m. in the Parlor.

This is the place to be if you are considering membership at First Pres, or just want to learn more about who we are, what we believe, and all the fun things we do together as a church!

Register here: <http://firstpresevanston.org/life-together>.

Officer Nominations Sought

Please find the Officer Nominations Form at the front desk or online. The 2023 Nominating Committee seeks your input as they build a slate of candidates to be voted on in October.



First Pres Announcements

September 3, 2023

Lemonade on the Lawn

Join us outside after the service (weather permitting) for Lemonade on the Lawn, sponsored by the Deacons! Beginning next Sunday, our post-worship fellowship will move indoors for the fall.

Building closed Monday, September 4

The church building will be closed tomorrow in honor of Labor Day.

Sunday Worship moves to 9:30 a.m. next week!

On Fall Kickoff Sunday, September 10, we return to the 9:30 a.m. fall worship schedule.



Pastries with the Pastor

Sunday, September 10

After worship in the Dining Room

First Pres members and regular attendees are invited to get to know Interim Senior Pastor Rev. Dr. Tassie Green in an engaging Q & A over pastries and coffee.

Realm/Directory Photos Next Sunday

A portrait session will take place after the September 10 service to capture photos for Realm (our members/attendees database). Volunteers will be on hand to help you create/update your profile with your photo. If we get enough photos, we will also create a new First Pres Church Directory!



Unable to attend, but want to have your photo included?
Contact Janice at the church office: 847-864-1472.