

Clifton Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)
Loving God ~ Loving One Another ~ Loving the World



Crossing of the Red Sea by Wilhelm Kotarbiński in the National Art Museum of Ukraine
From Art in the Christian Tradition of Vanderbilt University

September 17, 2023

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:45 AM *Prayer and Care*

10:00 AM *Worship*

WE GATHER TOGETHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Words in **BOLD** indicate the congregation reading together. Words of the worship leader are in PLAIN type. An asterisk * indicates that the congregation may stand, as able.

Gathering Song GtG 392

Jesus, We Are Here

Jesus, we are here. Jesus, we are here.

Jesus, we are here, we are here for you.

Savior, we are here... Spirit, we are here...

Time of Prayer and Care

Prelude

***Call to Worship** *from Psalm 103*

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me.

Bless God's holy name.

God forgives. God heals. God transforms with steadfast love.

Bless God's holy name.

***Hymn GtG 109**

Blest be the God of Israel

**Blest be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free;
who visits and redeems us, who grants us liberty.**

**The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill that promise and bring the people peace.**

Call to Confession

Before we can hear God's truth spoken in love, we must free ourselves from all that obstructs us from honestly acknowledging our wrongdoing. Let us examine our hearts and confess our sins to God.

Prayer of Confession

Nurturing God, like a hen gathers her brood under her wings, you desire to gather your children. But division and disagreement plague us. We cling to rigid certainties, approach each other in arrogance, and fail to listen. We walk away from conflict, rather than working through it. Forgive us, Holy God. Help us grow in faith, mature in relationship, and be transformed through your steadfast love. Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace *from James 5:15-16*

The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, redeemed and restored to God's path of righteousness.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Sing Glory GTG 584

Glory, Glory, Glory

Glory, glory, glory! Glory be to God on high!

Glory, glory, glory! Glory be to God on high!

And on earth peace to all people in whom God is well pleased.

And on earth peace to all people in whom God is well pleased.

The Peace of Christ

Let us share signs of this peace in the name of the One we follow. The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Those in the sanctuary are invited to greet those around you.

Those on zoom are invited to offer greetings in the chat.

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination PH 339 *Be Thou My Vision, v. 2*

**Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.**

First Reading Romans 13:8-10

⁸ Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet," and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

God be in our listening, God be in our understanding.

Amen.

Anthem

Second Reading Exodus 14:19-31; 15:20-21 (CEB)

¹⁹God's messenger, who had been in front of Israel's camp, moved and went behind them. The column of cloud moved from the front and took its place behind them. ²⁰ It stood between Egypt's camp and Israel's camp. The cloud remained there, and when darkness fell it lit up the night. They didn't come near each other all night.

²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD pushed the sea back by a strong east wind all night, turning the sea into dry land. The waters were split into two. ²² The Israelites walked into the sea on dry ground. The waters formed a wall for them on their right hand and on their left. ²³ The Egyptians chased them and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and cavalry. ²⁴ As morning approached, the LORD looked down on the Egyptian camp from the column of lightning and cloud and threw the Egyptian camp into a panic. ²⁵ The LORD jammed their chariot wheels so that they wouldn't turn easily. The Egyptians said, "Let's get away from the Israelites, because the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt!"

²⁶ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the water comes back and covers the Egyptians, their chariots, and their cavalry." ²⁷ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. At daybreak, the sea returned to its normal depth. The Egyptians were driving toward it, and the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸ The waters returned and covered the chariots and the cavalry, Pharaoh's entire army that had followed them into the sea. Not one of them remained. ²⁹ The Israelites, however, walked on dry ground through the sea. The waters formed a wall for them on their right hand and on their left.

³⁰ The LORD rescued Israel from the Egyptians that day. Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹ Israel saw the amazing power of the LORD against the Egyptians. The people were in awe of the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

...

15²⁰ Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand. All the women followed her playing tambourines and dancing. ²¹ Miriam sang the refrain back to them:
Sing to the LORD, for an overflowing victory!
Horse and rider he threw into the sea!

For the Word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us,
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Moses: Through the Waters

Diane Walton Hendricks

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD AND ARE SENT TO THE WORLD

Hymn PH 281

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah *vv 1-3*

**Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty.
Hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more;
feed me till I want no more.**

**Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield;
be thou still my strength and shield.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to thee;
I will ever give to thee.**

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

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.

Offering our Gifts to God

For those who would like to make a physical offering, the offering plates are available in the middle of the sanctuary.

Donations can also be made online. www.cliftonpc.org

We are inspired to be generous by a generous God. We are inspired to give by the greatest of givers. In gratitude to God, let us present our tithes and offerings. Let us pray.

Prayer of Dedication

Holy God, bless our gifts for your good use. May the tokens of our gratitude be of service in blessing the poor, feeding the hungry, clothing and sheltering those struggling to survive. Use our gifts to further Christ's mission and ministry in a hurting world. Amen.

Celebrating Ministries

- Minute for Mission

Ringling of the Bell

Charge and Benediction

Benediction Response GTG 740 Lead Me, Guide Me

**Lead me, guide me, along the way, for if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.**

**I am weak and I need your strength and power to help me over my weakest hour.
Help me through the darkness your face to see. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.**

**Lead me, guide me, along the way, for if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.**

Thank you for joining us for worship this morning.

We can be reached at office@cliftonpc.org

Prayers and Liturgy adapted from Teri Ott, 9.17.23 *Presbyterian Outlook Weekly Liturgy Resource*.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License #A- 721138 and CCLI License 20618208.