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September 17, 2017

Baptism

(Portions of the service that are in **BOLD** are to be said by all.

All points marked * those who are able are invited to stand.)

Approach

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering Hymn VU #395 – *“Come In, Come In and Sit Down”*

Call to Worship

One: When Israel was delivered from Egypt unbelievable things happened—the sea fled, and the River Jordan turned back.

All: The mountains seem to skip like rams, and the hills to frolic like little lambs.

One: What awesome power caused river and sea to change their course—mountains and hills to jump and skip?

All: The whole earth was surely trembling in the presence of God.

One: Praise God who sets people free in unexpected ways and sustains them through unexpected acts of grace.

All: Let us praise and worship God together.

* Opening Hymn VU #296 – *“This Is God’s Wondrous World”*

Prayer of Approach and Confession

Awesome and majestic God, your creative power, your glory and holiness were experienced by your people of old as clouds and fire guiding them to freedom. They believed that no one could see your face and live. How blessed therefore are we, for you have revealed your face to us in Jesus—the human face of your love. You also equip us for our journey through life and beyond, by breathing new and everlasting life into our very beings, through the gift of the Holy Spirit. These people of old believed that it was your presence with them which made them a chosen and special people. Reconciling God, as much as we hope to truly live into being your people we would rather gossip about those who sin against us, than speak to them privately; we would rather parade our wounds for all to see, than quietly work toward forgiveness and reconciliation. Help us choose the harder road, the road that opens possibilities for real healing, real forgiveness, and real growth in your Spirit. Help us place the best interests of our community of faith above our own need for public vindication. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon / Passing the Peace

Baptismal Liturgy (see insert)

* Hymn MV #94 – *“Love Knocks and Waits”*

The Word

📖 Scripture Reading – Exodus 14: 19-31
Romans 14: 1-12

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

Reflection – *“Walking through water?”*

(a quiet time for your personal reflection and prayer)

Anthem – *“For Love Shall Be Our Song”*

The Response

* Offering / Response (VU #538)

**For the gift of creation, the gift of your love,
And the gift of the Spirit by which we live;
We thank you and give you the fruit of our hands;
May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.**

Children’s Time

Pastoral Prayer / Lord’s Prayer

* Closing Hymn MV #145 – *“Draw the Circle Wide”*

* Benediction / Response (tune VU #460)

**From this place of prayer and praising,
Cross and table, well-worn pews,
God, we leave to work and witness,
Living every day for you.
Bless your people as we journey,
Loving parent, Holy Friend;
Spirit, guide your people onward,
‘Til once more we meet again.**

Patrick Woodbeck, Student Minister
Heather Karavas, Office Administrator
Nancy Sulkers, Liturgist

Laura Steidl, Music Director
Myrna Hagues, Organist
Gina Grant, Custodian

Welcome Ministry: Bill & Carol Belsham, Nancy Sulkers, Edna Erickson