

Twenty-Second Sunday After Pentecost

October 29, 2023 ~ 10:30 a.m.

The Gathering

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS
Stewardship Testimony

PRELUDE – His Eye is On the Sparrow, by Charles H. Gabriel (arranged by Paul Mickelson)
Flute, Jenny Prather

INTROIT- Give Us Light – Jean Pasquet

Gathering Around the Word

CALL TO WORSHIP

O' Liberating God, we assemble ourselves for worship
In the witness and the work of the midwives Shiphrah and Puah
You call us to act together through faithful stewardship of our gifts
We offer everything we have and everything we are
We accept the call to be stewards of liberation!

O' Liberating God, we commit to the inaugural acts of liberation
in our time and place
We will risk being wrong
We will risk being misunderstood
We will risk, new acts of resistance and rebellion
We accept the call to be stewards of liberation!

HYMN – Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above, #343 (Vs. #1, #3, #4)

Verse 1: Sing praise to God who reigns above,
the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love,
the God of our salvation.
With healing balm, my soul is filled
and every faithless murmur stilled:
To God all praise and glory.

Verse 3: The Lord is never far away,
but through all grief distressing,
an ever-present help and stay,
our peace and joy and blessing.
As with a mother's tender hand,

God gently leads the chosen band:
To God all praise and glory.

Verse 4: Thus all my gladsome way along,
I sing aloud thy praises,
that earth may hear the grateful song
my voice unwearied raises.
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart,
both soul and body bear your part:
To God all praise and glory.

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Gracious God, you have created a world of abundance – an abundance of love and of grace. And yet, unlike the midwives of old, we often run away. Rather than answering your call, we are preoccupied with ourselves and our own safety. Instead of extravagantly sharing and trusting your abundance, we have lived life as if your treasures are scarce.

UNISON PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS

Help us to answer your call to take risks and to practice generosity, and to take the abundance of treasures you have given to us into our communities to transform lives.

Silence is kept.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God calls us to live lives of abundance, yet we have lived in ways that fall short of that. Receive the forgiveness of the Spirit that empowers us to embody the abundant love and grace the world needs to transform lives.
Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER and THE LORD’S PRAYER [“Sins”]

ANTHEM – A Simple Path I Walk Along, by Valerie Showers Crescenz
Flute, Jenny Prather

The Word

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 1:15-22

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, ¹⁶“When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live.” ¹⁷But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. ¹⁸So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this and allowed the boys to live?” ¹⁹The midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to

them.”²⁰ So God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied and became very strong.²¹ And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families.²² Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, “Every son that is born to the Hebrews^[a] you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live.”

SERMON

"Midwife."

Responding to the Word

OFFERING

Invitation to Generosity

May we heed God’s call. May our generosity meet God’s abundance in attending to the needs and hopes of our community so that together, we may transform lives.

Offertory – Thy Word is a Lamp

Prayer of Dedication/Offering

God of Abundance, We dedicate these gifts for your work in the world, so that we may transform lives with your love and your grace. Amen.

HYMN – You Shall Go Out With Joy

You shall go out with joy
And be led forth with peace
The mountains and the hills
Will break forth before you
There’ll be shouts of joy
And all the trees of the field
Will clap, will clap their hands
And all the trees of the field
Will clap their hands
The trees of the field
Will clap their hands
The trees of the field
Will clap their hands
(Repeat)

Sending the Word

BENEDICTION

Go out in the world and live in the abundance of God’s treasure, embracing God’s call to use that abundance to transform lives.

POSTLUDE – God Will Take Care of You, by W. Stillman Martin (arranged by John Innes)