



"Mother of Moses," Simeon Solomon, circa 1860



THE 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
A Service of the Word

August 23, 2020 ✦ 10:00 a.m.

The 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Who are our pharaohs? Any institution or any person who rules or controls our lives.

“... Pharaoh stands at the barricaded door and demands that we sign death certificates. He has no idea what he is asking of us. For we know who we are. For we are the people who follow the life-bearing God. We are the people who follow one God.”

— Nancy Hastings Sehested

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit gathers us in unity on the first day, the day of Christ's resurrection

Prelude — Selections from “Variations on OLD 124TH” by David Dahl *Dr. Patricia Snyder, organ*

Welcome

Greeting

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Many: **And also with you.**

Call to Worship

One: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

Many: **the maker of heaven and earth.**

One: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

Many: **the lover of the outcast and the forlorn.**

One: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

Many: **the liberator of all who are in bondage.**

One: Our help is the name of the Lord,

Many: **the sustainer of life, the provider and provoker of new life.**

Hymn — Psalm 124: “Our Help Is in the Name of God”

this bulletin, pg. 5

Prayer of the Day

One: Let us pray.

Many: **O God of liberation,**

**you call us to take action, and to live in the world—
a world of brokenness and pain.**

We thank you for all those who act on behalf of others;

we thank you for those who use the gifts you have given to do your will.

Inspired by their witness, give us the power, too,

to live into your call to take action for your realm;

in the name of Jesus, the kingdom-proclaimer, we pray. Amen.

News from our Life Together

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

Refrain — from “God, We Honor You”

ABUNDANT BLESSINGS

God, we hon - or you. God, we trust in you.
God, we wor - ship and a - dore you.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading — Exodus 1:8 – 2:10

The brave Hebrew midwives defied Pharaoh to save many infants from death. When the mother of Moses placed him in a basket in the Nile, the daughter of Pharaoh found him, adopted him, and raised him. Moses’ sister and mother also played crucial roles in this drama.

The refrain (“God, We Honor You” – music above) is repeated.

Sermon — “Girl Power”

The Rev. Matthew Emery

RESPONSE

We begin our lives of responding to the gospel in prayer and offering

Responding with our Gifts

During the offertory music, while reflecting on the gifts we have to offer, those participating via Zoom are welcome to submit prayer petitions—joys and concerns—via the “Chat” feature in Zoom. These petitions will be collected together and transmitted to Pastor Matt for inclusion during the time for prayers of the people.

An Offering Thought

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. – Romans 12:2

The early Christians did not conform to the world's standards, and they were known for their love, care, and genuine open community. Let us work to make sure that the future church is not conformed to the culture but rather is faithful to the radical upside-down-inside-out way of Christ.

OFFERTORY MUSIC *recorded by members of the SCC Adult Choir; edited by Cooper Clark*
"Once to Every Man and Nation" (EBENEZER [TON-Y-BOTEL])

Once to every man and nation comes the moment to decide,
In the strife of truth with falsehood, for the good or evil side;
Some great cause, God's new messiah, offering each the bloom or blight,
And the choice goes by forever 'twixt the darkness and that light.

Though the cause of evil prosper, yet 'tis truth alone is strong,
Truth forever on the scaffold, wrong forever on the throne.
Yet that scaffold sways the future, and behind the dim unknown,
Standeth God within the shadow keeping watch above his own.

The Prayers of the People, *ending with The Lord's Prayer*

Many: 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 glory forever. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us forth in mission for the world

Hymn — "For the Faithful Who Have Answered"

this bulletin, pg. 6

Benediction

Postlude — "Toccatà" (excerpt) by Dubois

Dr. Patricia Snyder, organ

Following the postlude, the Zoom Meeting will remain open for those who wish to connect and chat—a bring-your-own-coffee "coffee hour"! We look forward to connecting with you!

Our Help Is in the Name of God 330

(Psalm 124)

1 Our help is in the name of God the Lord, the One who
 2 When e - vil seems to have the up - per hand, call on God's
 3 Praise God the Lord who hears the cap-tives' prayer. Like birds es -

made the heav - ens with a word, cre - a - tor of the
 name: the Lord, the great "I AM." When trou-bles rise and
 cap - ing from the fowl-er's snare we are set free; our

world, each liv - ing thing. Come, bless the Lord, lift up your
 all a - round gives way, re - mem - ber God stays with us
 prais - es now as - cend: "Blessed be the Lord: Cre - a - tor,

hearts and sing: "Our help is in the name of God the Lord."
 night and day. Our help is in the name of God the Lord.
 Sav - ior, Friend. Our help is in the name of God the Lord."

As a means of fostering the continuity of Reformed tradition, this paraphrase of Psalm 124 has been created to fit the tune that was used for the French paraphrase of Psalm 124 in the 1551 Genevan Psalter. The early psalters in English generally avoided such longer poetic forms.

COMMUNION OF SAINTS

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For the Faithful Who Have Answered

Heb. 11:4–12:2

Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1986; alt.

1 For the faith - ful who have an - swered when they heard your call to serve,
 2 Man - y minds have glimpsed the prom - ise; man - y hearts have yearned to see;
 3 For this cloud of faith - ful wit - ness, for the com - mon life we share,

for the man - y ways you led them, test - ing will and stretch - ing nerve,
 man - y souls have heard you call - ing us to great - er lib - er - ty.
 for the work of peace and jus - tice, for the gos - pel that we bear,

For their work and for their wit - ness as they strove a - gainst the odds,
 Some have fall - en in the strug - gle; oth - ers still are press - ing on.
 For the vi - sion that our home - land is your love— deep, high, and broad—

for their cour - age and o - be - dience, we give thanks and praise, O God.
 You are not a - shamed to own us; we give thanks and praise, O God.
 for the dif - ferent roads we trav - el, we give thanks and praise, O God.

In commissioning a hymn for the fiftieth anniversary of women's ordination in 1986, the United Church of Canada specified that it should concentrate on all people's faithful response to God's call. Sylvia Dunstan selected Hebrews 11 and 12 as her primary reference.

Tune: OMNI DIE 8.7.8.7.D.
 German melody, 1625
 Trier Gesangbuch, 1695

Notes and Acknowledgements

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If you have any questions about how to make a contribution, or about your giving history, feel free to contact our Collector, Donna Latincsics (contact info available through the church office).

We envision our community as a welcoming, historic, and progressive Christian community. We are an Open and Affirming congregation: Believing that each of us is unique and blessed with special talents from God, each a creation of God's love, alike and yet different, we open our doors and our ministry to *all*. We accept into full participation in the life of this Church: people of any age, economic status, gender, marital status, race, sexual orientation, and physical, emotional and mental capability. As a community, we will work to put aside all prejudices and to affirm and promote the worth and dignity of each person.

STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*We share in God's love by growing in faith,
courageously seeking justice, and generously caring for all people.*

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