

First Congregational United Church of Christ, and Grace United Church

Fort Atkinson, WI

Rally Sunday

September 13, 2020

Prelude

Greeting

Psalter Lesson #1114

When Israel went out from Egypt,
the house of Jacob from a people of strange language,
Judah became God's sanctuary,

Israel his dominion.

The sea looked and fled;

Jordan turned back.

**The mountains skipped like rams,
the hills like lambs.**

Why is it, O sea, that you flee?

O Jordan, that you turn back?

O mountains, that you skip like rams?

O hills, like lambs?

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the LORD,

at the presence of the God of Jacob,

who turns the rock into a pool of water,

the flint into a spring of water.

Hymn of Praise

Lead On, O Cloud of Yahweh (Lead On, O King)

Moments with Children (What's in the Bag?)

Hebrew Lesson:
Message

Exodus 14:19-31

Hymn of Reflection

#734 Be Strong in the Lord

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 18:21-35

Message

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Hymn of Sending Forth

Benediction Song

Benediction

Postlude

Lead On, O Cloud of Yahweh

(To the tune of "The Church is One Foundation" #401)

- 1.** Lead on, O cloud of Yahweh, The exodus is come;
In wilderness and desert Our tribe shall make its home.
Our slav'ry left behind us, A vision in us grows,
We seek the land of promise Where milk and honey flows.
- 2.** Lead on, O fiery pillar, We follow yet with fears,
But we shall come rejoicing Though joy be born of tears.
We are not lost, though wandering, For by your light we come,
And we are still God's people, The journey is our home.
- 3.** Lead on, O God of freedom, Our guiding spirit be;
Though those who start the journey The promise may not see,
We pray our sons and daughters May live to see that land
Where justice rules with mercy And love is law's demand

Be Strong In The Lord

Verse 1

Be strong in the Lord
And be of good courage
Your mighty defender
Is always the same
Mount up with wings
As the eagle ascending
Victory is sure
When you call on His name

Chorus

Be strong be strong
Be strong in the Lord
And be of good courage
For He is your guide
Be strong be strong
Be strong in the Lord
And rejoice
For the victory is yours

Verse 2

So put on the armor
The Lord has provided
And place your defense
In His unfailing care
Trust Him for He will
Be with you in battle
Lighting your path
To avoid every snare

Verse 3

Be strong in the Lord
And be of good courage
Your mighty commander
Will vanquish the foe

Fear not the battle
For the victory is always His
He will protect you wherever you go

CCLI Song # 52105

Linda Lee Johnson | Tom Fettke

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Benediction Song

Now it's time to say good-bye, to go on out from here, to
live the visions and the dreams, to scatter hate and fear. So
may the peace be with you now, a peace that's filled with grace. May
it surround all your struggles and ev'rything you face.

And may you find your own way to sing out love's own song with
courage, tears, and laughter, and then to pass it on. Yes, the
time has come to say good-bye... may peace be with you now.



Exodus 14:19-31 New Revised Standard Version

19 The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. **20** It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

21 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. **22** The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. **23** The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. **24** At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. **25** He clogged^{al} their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

The Pursuers Drowned

26 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." **27** So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. **28** The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. **29** But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

30 Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. **31** Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

Footnotes

a. [Exodus 14:25](#) Sam Gk Syr: MT removed

< [Exodus 13](#)

[Exodus 15](#) >

Matthew 18:21-35 New Revised Standard Version

Forgiveness

21 Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church^[a] sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" **22** Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven^[a] times."

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

23 "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. **24** When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents^[a] was brought to him; **25** and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. **26** So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' **27** And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. **28** But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii;^[a] and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' **29** Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' **30** But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. **31** When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. **32** Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. **33** Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' **34** And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. **35** So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister^[a] from your heart."

Footnotes

- a. [Matthew 18:21](#) Gk *if my brother*
- b. [Matthew 18:22](#) Or *seventy times seven*

- c. [Matthew 18:24](#) A talent was worth more than fifteen years' wages of a laborer
- d. [Matthew 18:28](#) The denarius was the usual day's wage for a laborer
- e. [Matthew 18:35](#) *Gk brother*

< [Matthew 17](#)

[Matthew 19](#) >

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