

**The Downtown Presbyterian Church
Order of Worship for September 13, 2020
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Opening Voluntary

Chorale Prelude on *Gott, der Vater, wohn uns bei* Georg Philipp Telemann
(God, the Father, Live with Us)
William Taylor, organ

Welcome

Call to Worship

“Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain”
Ryan Norris, cantor

Prayer of Renewal

led by Jack Henderson

*When we look over our shoulders at fear shadowing us today,
you go before us into tomorrow,
making a path through the sea of yesterday's doubts.
When our legs tremble from the effort of standing up for what you hope for all creation,
you are at our side, offering your heart's strength.
Cloud of Grace, we offer our love to you.*

*When we turn our hearts into deserts of stony bitterness,
you transform them into oases of joy.
When we come up with all sorts of rules for those who come to us seeking to find you,
you tear up the list, stretching wide your arms in welcoming grace.
Servant of all, we offer our lives to you.*

*When we would clasp old worries to our hearts,
you open our eyes to that hope which paves the path ahead of us.
When we spend each day consumed with doubts and fears,
you remind us that this day is the time to honor God, by serving God's children.
Mist of Mercy, we offer our hearts to you.*

*God in Community, Holy in One,
as you are all to us, so we would offer all we are to you.*

(Silent prayer)

Assurance of God's Grace

*May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.*

Announcements

Children's Message

Suzie Lane

Prayer for Illumination

God'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. 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.

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. The Israelites walked into the sea on dry ground. The waters formed a wall for them on their right hand and on their left. The Egyptians chased them and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and cavalry.

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. 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!"

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." 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. 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. 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.

The Lord rescued Israel from the Egyptians that day. Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. 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.

Sermon

Rev. Mike Wilson

Special Music

"In a Deep Unbounded Darkness"

Ryan Norris, tenor

*In a deep, unbounded darkness, long before the first light shone,
You, O God, beyond all merit worked a wonder faith makes known:
In your mercy, in your mercy, you embraced us as your own, evermore and evermore.*

*Though our world is ever-changing, you are constant, firm, and sure,
faithful to your covenant promise. Trusting you, we live, secure:
singing praises, singing praises, long as heart and breath endure, evermore and evermore.*

*Joy transforms our lips to boasting only in your matchless grace,
sending Christ to dwell among us, Word made flesh in time and space:
Friend and Savior, Friend and Savior, in whose life we glimpse your face, evermore and evermore.*

*God of Hagar, God of Sarah, God of nomad Abraham;
God of Miryam, God of Moses, Fiery Pillar, great I Am:
lead us homeward, lead us homeward, to the love-feast of the Lamb, evermore and evermore.*

— Anon. Chinese; trans. Francis P. Jones, 1953; adapt. Mary Louise Bringle, 2012

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Hymn

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"
Ryan Norris, cantor

Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

Fughetta in F Major

Georg Philipp Telemann

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

1 Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness!
2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day: Christ has burst his pris - on,
3 Now the queen of sea - sons, bright with the day of splen - dor,
4 Nei - ther could the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por - tal,

God has brought forth Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness,
and from three days' sleep in death as a sun has ris - en.
with the roy - al feast of feasts comes its joy to ren - der;
nor the watch - ers, nor the seal hold you as a mor - tal:

loosed from Pha - raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters;
All the win - ter of our sins, long and dark, is fly - ing
comes to glad Je - ru - sa - lem, who with true af - fec - tion
but to - day, a - mong your own, you ap - pear, be - stow - ing

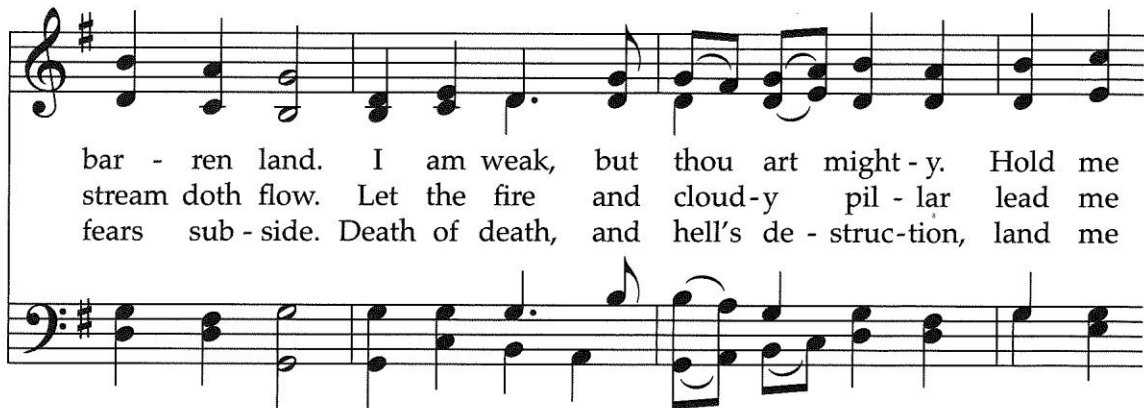
led them with un - moist - ened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters.
from the Light, to whom we give laud and praise un - dy - ing.
wel - comes in un - wea - ried strains Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion!
your deep peace, which ev - er - more pass - es hu - man know - ing.

One of the many ancient hymns translated into English in the 19th century, this 8th-century Eastertide hymn was originally part of a longer Greek liturgical text. This tune was created for this text by a church organist who later rose to fame as a composer of operettas.

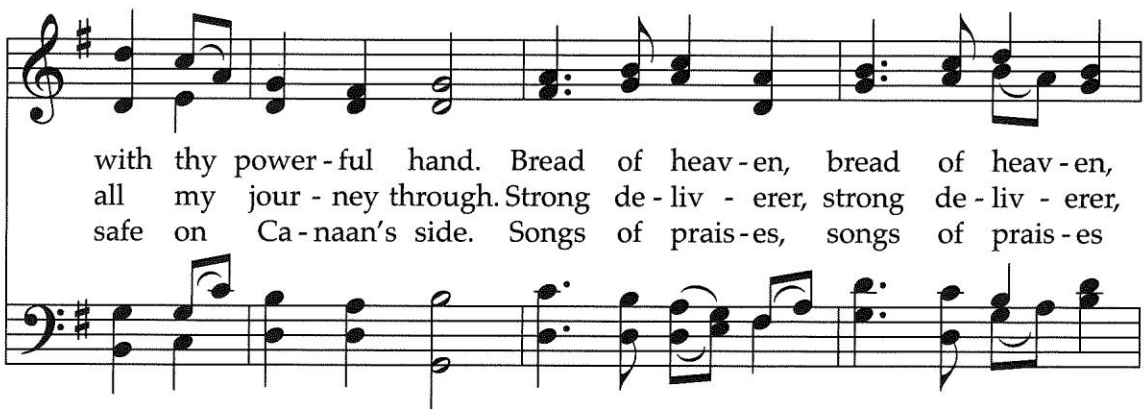
Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah



1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y. Hold me
stream doth flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, land me



with thy power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es



feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.
be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.
I will ev - er give to thee; I will ev - er give to thee.

Few Welsh hymns are as well known or loved as this 18th-century text that did not gain its popular tune until the early 20th century. In both its original text and in English translation, it is a stirring hymn of pilgrimage filled with vivid imagery from Hebrew Scripture.