

Call to Worship

Leader: Come take off your shoes

All: For where we stand is holy ground

Leader: Come love your neighbor and do good to all around you

All: For where we stand is holy ground

Leader: Come and share our stories

All: For where we stand is holy ground

Leader: Love all that God gave us

All: For we are all standing on holy ground

Unison Prayer of Invocation

Around the world people gather to break bread and pour wine. We gather with them in heart and mind. Around the world the broken body is made whole. As part of that body we join in its unity. Around the world the Banquet of God is prepared for the table. We, who share in the banquet, come eagerly to be fed. Let us worship together, let us share God's bounty. Amen

Opening Hymn*When Israel Was in Egypt's Land****Red Hymnal #258**

Scripture

Exodus 1:8-14, 3:1-15

Kathy Albright

⁸Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. ⁹He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. ¹⁰Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." ¹¹Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. ¹²But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. ¹³The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, ¹⁴and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

³Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ²There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. ³Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." ⁴When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." ⁶He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Issac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

⁷Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmaster. Indeed, I know their sufferings, ⁸and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the

Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jubusites. ⁹The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.” ¹¹But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” ¹²He said, “I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.”

¹³But Moses said to God, “If I come to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” ¹⁴God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” He said further, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” ¹⁵God also said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you; This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.’”

***Gloria Patri**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen, amen.

Message

Pastoral Prayer

...Teach us to listen to your voice, that we may hear the cry of the needy and respond. Teach us to love that we may offer care that brings others to you for healing. Teach us to lead, with your vision so that we do not lead others blindly through life. Amen

Prayer Response:

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call, answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

Announcements

***Passing of the Peace**

Leader: The peace of God be with you

All: And also with you

Leader: As Jesus did, so let us share the symbols of love and peace with each other.

***Communion Hymn**

Let Us Break Bread Together

Red Hymnal #210

Invitation to the Table

Leader: We gather around the Table in places far and near

Side 1: Eating Sourdough, Rye, Tortillas

Side 2: Crackers, Wafers, or Wonderbread—

All: The body of Christ.

Leader: Drinking the wine or the juice

Side 1: from handmade chalices and silver goblets,

Side 2: golden spoons and little mini cups–

All: The blood of Christ.

Leader: The bread and the cup unite us with all who would follow Jesus.

Side 1: This meal reaches back through the centuries.

Side 2: This table reaches around the world.

All: Let us eat and drink with joy.

Prayer of Communion

***Lord's Prayer**

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offertory

For those attending in person, there are freewill offering plates at the back of the sanctuary. Offerings are also welcomed at and can be sent to:

St. Paul's UCC, Attn: Sue Barker, 115 South Cedar St., Madrid, IA 50156

Offertory Invitation

In 2023, the Neighbors in Need "BEHOLD!" offering focuses on environmental justice. Plastics, electronics, and other non-compostable wastes are being shipped across, and even tossed into, our waterways, launched into space, as well as buried in landfills. As people of faith, we believe these acts are sinful and detrimental to the world in which we live.. We must be better stewards of our planet! Today's 5 for 5 offering will help right some of these wrongs. Let us bring forward the offerings.

***Doxology**

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Praise God, all creatures here below!
Praise God above, ye heavenly host! Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost! Amen***

***Offertory Prayer**

God, just as You called Moses so long ago, so You call each one of us to speak and act on Your behalf in our world today. Accept our offerings today, both for the betterment of our church and our special offering to help our environment and community around us. Forgive us when we are hesitant to follow; when we question Your call or make excuses for our abilities; when we complain about our lack of time or hoard our resources. Give us courage to step out in faith, to follow where You lead without hesitation or fear, trusting that Your presence goes with us, and that You will provide all that we need. Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Red Hymnal #276

***Commission**

Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

*Benediction

Go out into the world to join God in the work of love, of peace, of justice. Take in the breath of life. Take off your shoes. Know that you are ever in the presence of the Holy and Living God. Go in peace. Amen.

*Blessing Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace. Amen.

Postlude

Norma Shepard

At the Passover meal, Jesus instituted the Sacrament of the Altar with thanksgiving. Of the bread and wine he gave to his disciples, he said, "This is my body; this is my blood." So it is that as often as we eat of this bread and drink of this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We shall bring to the Lord's table with our offerings the bread and wine for the Lord's Supper. We invite to this table all who are members of a Christian Church, who desire peace with their neighbor, and who seek the mercy of God.

In the company with all believers in every time and beyond time, we come to this table to know him in the breaking of the bread. Heavenly Father, bless this bread and wine as we offer here our faith and praise, may we be united with Christ and one another and remain faithful to the tasks he sets before us.

Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ.

Through the cup of blessing we participate in the new life Christ gives.

Come for all things are ready.

**Lord as we gather around this wonderful meal
everywhere and in every place;
bless us all your children.**

**As we eat this bread and drink this cup
linking arms around the world,
pour your grace into us all.**

**Grace us with your presence
as we quietly and loudly pray to you.**

**May we see in each other
your light, your love and you.
May it not matter our differences,
our names, our languages,
our looks, and our way of doing things.
May what matter today and everyday be that we are one in you.**

**And as we pray many we call to mind our brothers and sisters
who are unable to be with us today whether in body or spirit.
May you bring comfort to those who are grieving, lonely,
heartbroken, ill or broken of spirit.**

**May you strengthen those whose lives feel shattered,
don't make sense, in crisis, and experiencing loss.
May you say the healing word to those who need it.
May you bring the human touch of love
to those who have not been touched.
May you love the unloved through us.**

**May you shine your light
into those whose world is covered in darkness.
May you use us to feed the hungry,
clothe the ones who need clothes,
give a cup of water to those who are thirsty,
shelter the homeless, visit the sick and those in prison.**

**May lives be awakened to you, Lord,
to your love and to your kingdom
whose door is always open to all.**