

August 3rd

Call to worship:

We gather today to worship the One who created us,

The One who calls us,

The One who equips us,

The One who loves us without end.

With joyful hearts, let us worship God.

Prayer of Confession: **God of tender mercies, we admit that sometimes we don't know what to do with ourselves. We anger at the slightest insult and imagine great vengeance upon those who wronged us. We laze about in the good news of our faith and do not consider the deep commitment of faith. We care for ourselves but not for others. Forgive us, we pray. Forgive us, help us to repent, and make us whole. Amen.**

Scripture: Joshua 2:1–24 and 6:22–25

2 Then Joshua son of Nun sent two men secretly from Shittim as spies, saying, "Go, view the land, especially Jericho." So they went and entered the house of a prostitute whose name was Rahab and spent the night there. **2** The king of Jericho was told, "Some Israelites have come here tonight to search out the land." **3** Then the king of Jericho sent orders to Rahab, "Bring out the men who have come to you, who entered your house, for they have come to search out the whole land." **4** But the woman took the two men and hid them.^[a] Then she said, "True, the men came to me, but I did not know where they came from. **5** And when it was time to close the gate at dark, the men went out. Where the men went I do not know. Pursue them quickly, for you can overtake them." **6** She had, however, brought them up to the roof and hidden them with the stalks of flax that she had laid out on the roof. **7** So the men pursued them on the way to the Jordan as far as the fords. As soon as the pursuers had gone out, the gate was shut.

8 Before they went to sleep, she came up to them on the roof **9** and said to the men, "I know that the LORD has given you the land and that dread of you has fallen on us and that all the inhabitants of the land melt in fear before you. **10** For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea^[b] before you when you came out of Egypt and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. **11** As soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no courage left in any of us because of you. The LORD your God is indeed God in heaven above and on earth below. **12** Now then, since I have dealt kindly with you, swear to me by the LORD that you in turn will deal kindly with my family. Give me a sign of

good faith **13** that you will spare my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them and deliver our lives from death.” **14** The men said to her, “Our life for yours! If you do not tell this business of ours, then we will deal kindly and faithfully with you when the LORD gives us the land.”

15 Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was on the outer side of the city wall and she resided within the wall itself. **16** She said to them, “Go toward the hill country, so that the pursuers may not come upon you. Hide yourselves there three days, until the pursuers have returned; then afterward you may go your way.” **17** The men said to her, “We will be released from this oath that you have made us swear to you **18** if we invade the land and you do not tie this crimson cord in the window through which you let us down and you do not gather into your house your father and mother, your brothers, and all your family. **19** If any of you go out of the doors of your house into the street, they shall be responsible for their own death, and we shall be innocent, but if a hand is laid upon any who are with you in the house, we shall bear the responsibility for their death. **20** But if you tell this business of ours, then we shall be released from this oath that you made us swear to you.” **21** She said, “According to your words, so be it.” She sent them away, and they departed. Then she tied the crimson cord in the window.

22 They departed and went into the hill country and stayed there three days, until the pursuers returned. The pursuers had searched all along the way and found nothing. **23** Then the two men came down again from the hill country. They crossed over, came to Joshua son of Nun, and told him all that had happened to them. **24** They said to Joshua, “Truly the LORD has given all the land into our hands; moreover, all the inhabitants of the land melt in fear before us.”

22 But to the two men who had spied out the land, Joshua said, “Go into the prostitute’s house, and bring the woman out of it and all who belong to her, as you swore to her.” **23** So the young men who had been spies went in and brought Rahab out, along with her father, her mother, her brothers, and all who belonged to her—they brought all her kindred out—and set them outside the camp of Israel. **24** They burned down the city and everything in it; only the silver and gold and the vessels of bronze and iron they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD. **25** But Rahab the prostitute, with her family and all who belonged to her, Joshua spared. Her family^[a] has lived in Israel ever since. For she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.

Sermon: Women of the Bible: Rahab

August 10th

Call to worship:

Welcome, friends, to this holy day.

We come to offer thanks; we come to sing and pray.

Welcome, friends, to this time set apart,

A time to remember those we love, and time to remember the holy promises of God.

Welcome, friends, to this table of remembrance and joy,

The table where we are fed, the feast we share with many.

Welcome, friends, and let us worship God

Prayer of Confession: **Gracious and loving God, open our hearts so that we are able to admit to you the fullness of our lives – that which is beautiful and good, and that which is hurtful and hateful. We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do.**

We love with condition.

We judge and condemn.

We cast the first stone, and keep the logs in our own eyes.

We do not turn to You as the source of our healing. Forgive us, we pray. Forgive our sin, and empower us to be imitators of Christ in love and service. Amen.

Scripture: Exodus 2:1–10 Numbers 12:1–16

2 Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. **2** The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. **3** When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. **4** His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

5 The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. **6** When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. “This must be one of the Hebrews’ children,” she said. **7** Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?” **8** Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Yes.” So the girl went and called the child’s mother. **9** Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.” So the woman took the child and nursed it. **10** When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh’s daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses,^[a] “because,” she said, “I drew him out of the water.”

Sermon: Women of the Bible: Miriam

August 17th

Call to worship

We come to you, O God, to thank you for what is good.

We come to you, O God, to cry out for what is wrong.

We come to you, O God, to ask for help and restoration.

We come to you, O God, with aching hearts and glad souls.

Let us worship God.

Prayer of Confession: **Holy God, hear our prayer:**

For the mending of our hearts, torn apart by our unkindness;

For the healing of our souls, wasting away from the despair around us;

For the forgiveness we seek for the sin we have allowed to persist;

For the reconciliation of the world, whose division condemns us;

We pray for the courage to admit our fault,

The strength to amend our actions,

And the hope that your grace awaits us.

Through Christ we pray. Amen.

Scripture: Joanna (Luke 8:1-3) MM

Joanna and MM(Luke 24)

Phoebe (Romans 16:1-2)

Sermon: Women of the Bible: Women Leadership- Joanna, Mary Magdalene, and Phoebe

August 24 Ron preaching

Call to worship:

When we long for the special effects we think life should offer:

it is enough, for us, that God comes in a soft, summer shower.

When we our hearts are cracked by the drought of doubt:

it is enough, for us, that God opens up the fountains of faith for us.

When our senses are deadened by the sales pitches of our culture:

it is enough, for us, that God wraps us in the silence of grace.

Loving and Everlasting God, even though there are many ways to express our love to our neighbors, we confess that all too often we turn a blind eye to those in need. All too often we turn away from our neighbors and towards desires of our own hearts. All too often we intentionally or accidentally hurt the people we love the most. Forgive us, oh God, when we let hatred and selfishness overcome love and compassion. Open our eyes and hearts to turn towards others and strive to share your love and grace with them. Keep us mindful of all the ways we can express love. We pray in your Holy name. Amen.

August 31 Guest Minister preaching

We gather as God's beloved children –

However glad we are, however out of sorts we are.

We come together as a people whom Jesus calls into community –

So this becomes a place where all are welcome.

We have come to give thanks, to pray and sing, to be with other –

Let us worship God.

Prayer of Confession: Loving and Everlasting God, even though there are many ways to express our love to our neighbors, we confess that all too often we turn a blind eye to those in need. All too often we turn away from our neighbors and towards desires of our own hearts. All too often we intentionally or accidentally hurt the people we love the most. Forgive us, oh God, when we let hatred and selfishness overcome love and compassion. Open our eyes and hearts to turn towards others and strive to share your love and grace with them. Keep us mindful of all the ways we can express love. We pray in your Holy name. Amen.