

Joys and Concerns

Prayer List...

Marjorie Madsen, Marjorie Hultquist, Maxine Grams,
Ed Sorensen, Lori Conyers's Parents, and Dolly Grams.

This week's birthdays: Chase Shelton, Elaine Curren,
Betty Cross, Mary Nuss, Debra Smidt, and Fred Will

This week's anniversary celebrations:
Brooke & Joe Lundeen—9 years

Pastoral Prayer—The Lord's Prayer

*Doxology

UMH 94

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Offertory Prayer

Giving God, all we are and all we have come from you. We offer back to you what has always been yours. As you have entrusted your gifts to us, so we return these gifts to you, trusting that you will multiply them to the great glory of your kingdom on earth. We pray through Jesus who gave the totality of his life for us. Amen.

Closing Hymn

UMH 121

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

Benediction

Go with the God who can part the troubled waters of your life and lead you through to dry ground. Go with the God who can scatter and subdue all that hinders you on your journey. Go forth in God's might and in God's peace. Amen.

Thank You for Worshipping with us today.

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Minden United Methodist Church

Order of Worship

September 13, 2020

15th Sunday after Pentecost

2020 Vision:

Extend Hospitality to Strangers

Welcome and Announcements

Tony Ratka

>Please post on YouTube or Facebook in the comments any joys and prayers you have. Pastor Peter will read these before prayer time and pray for those requests.

>Our ZOOM gatherings will be Thursdays 1:00 PM and 7:00 PM. You can talk, share, and ask whatever with us by phone and computer. Please read further information in our September newsletter.

>Last week we received offerings of \$4,032. Thank you for the offerings, prayers, and food-pantry items.

*Call to Worship

L: Sing praise to God who rescues us when we fall!

P: Sing praise to God who walks with us on all our journeys!

L: Even though we fall, God lifts us and places us on paths of peace.

P: Even though we stray, God finds us and brings us back to lives of hope.

L: Thanks be to God, whose love is continually with us.

P: Praise be to God, whose mercy is over us all. AMEN.

*Opening Prayer

We sing and speak your praise, O God, grateful for the many ways in which you have healed us. Keep our hearts, our minds, and our spirits open to learn ways in which we can offer healing love for others. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Silent Prayer of Confession

Opening Hymn

“Amazing Grace”

UMH 378

Children’s Time

Pastor Peter Choi

Scriptures

Exodus 14:19-31

Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel’s army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the Lord drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh’s horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. During the last watch of the night the Lord looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. He jammed the wheels of their chariots so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, “Let’s get away from the Israelites! The Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.”

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen.” Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing toward it, and the Lord swept them into the sea. The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen—the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived.

But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. That day the Lord saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. And when the Israelites saw the mighty hand of the Lord displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the Lord and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.

Matthew 13:21-35

But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

“The owner’s servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, didn’t you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?’

“‘An enemy did this,’ he replied.

“The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’

“‘No,’ he answered, ‘because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.’”

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.”

He told them still another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough.”

Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable. So was fulfilled what was spoken through the prophet:

“I will open my mouth in parables,

I will utter things hidden since the creation of the world.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

P: Thanks be to God.

Message

“Divided Waters”

Pastor Peter Choi