



Sunday, June 21, 2020

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Vacation Bible School "Wilderness Escape" Worship Service

Pastoral Welcome

VBS Summary - Kris Crow

Opening Song....."Holy is the Lord"

Verse:

We stand and lift up our hands
For the joy of the Lord is our strength
We bow down and worship Him now
How great, how awesome is he
And together we sing
Everyone sing

Chorus:

Holy is the Lord God Almighty
The earth is filled with his glory
Holy is the Lord God Almighty
The earth is filled with his glory
The earth is filled with his glory
(Repeat from the beginning)

It's rising up all around
It's the anthem of the Lord's renown
It's rising up all around
It's the anthem of the Lord's renown
And together we sing, everyone sing
(Repeat chorus)

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Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

Amen.

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reconciling God,

**we confess that we do not trust your abundance,
and we deny your presence in our lives.**

**We place our hope in ourselves
and rely on our own efforts.**

We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.

We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.

**We fear difference and do not welcome others
as you have welcomed us.**

We sin in thought, word, and deed.

By your grace, forgive us;

through your love, renew us;

and in your Spirit, lead us;

so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.

Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through ✚ Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Day 1

Bible Point—"God is with us, so...trust God!"

Bible Verse—"God answered. 'I will be with you.'" (*Exodus 3:12*)

Bible Story

In the Day 1 drama, we met Moses for the start of our Bible story adventure! Led by Moses, nearly 2 million Israelites fled Egypt after enduring 400 years of slavery. God guided his people with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire at night. We can only imagine what that looked like! Yet within days after their escape, the people found themselves backed against the sea, with mountains on two sides and an army of enraged Egyptians bearing down on them.

"It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!" they cried. Moses reassured the Israelites, "Just stand still and watch the Lord rescue you today." Translation: "Hang in there! God's here, and he's going to do something unforgettable!" That's putting it mildly. A mighty wind blew, the waters parted, Moses and the people poured across the dry path to safety. The waters roared back into place and the Egyptians had no way to reach the Israelites. God's presence and power freed the Israelites, launching them on an incredible journey of faith. (*From Exodus 14:1-15:21*)

Day 2

Bible Point—"God gives us what we need, so...trust God!"

Bible Verse—"For your father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him!" (*Matthew 6:8*)

Bible Story

About thirty days had passed since the Israelites left Egypt. Apparently, the food they had brought with them had run out, and they began grumbling. All they could think of was the food back in Egypt – even if that food had come at the price of captivity! In spite of the Israelites' complaining, God responded by providing bread and meat – manna and quail. When the manna appeared the first morning, the Hebrews' questioned "What is it?" This miraculous food (which fed the Israelites for 40 years) would spoil overnight...except on the Sabbath. The day before the Sabbath, God's people could collect as much as they needed to get them through the next day. God heard his people and responded with incredible and unexplainable surprises. (*From Exodus 16*)

Day 3

Bible Point—"God gives us strength, so...trust God!"

Bible Verse—"For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength!" (*Philippians 4:13*)

Bible Story

As if wandering in the desert wasn't challenging enough, the Israelites soon came face to face with the Amalekites. A fierce violent tribal people, the Amalekites viewed the mass of Israelites as a threat to their land.

The Amalekites attacked, and Moses called on Joshua to round up an army to defend God's people. When Moses, with a hilltop position, lifted his hands to God, the Israelites gained victory. Yet when Moses lowered his hands, the Israelites faltered. With his brother Aaron holding up one arm and his brother-in-law Hur holding up the other, Moses kept his hands raised until the battle ended at sunset. Now that's teamwork! God had given his people victory over the Amalekites.

Who holds you up in hard times? Although Moses relied wholeheartedly on God, it's interesting to read that God gave him additional strength through people like Joshua, Aaron and Hur. God's power doesn't always take the form of a jaw-dropping miracle – sometimes God empowers us by providing just the right people at just the right time. (*From Exodus 17:8-16*)

Song....."This is How We Overcome"

Verse 1:

Your light broke through my night
Restored exceeding joy
Your grace felt like the rain
And made this desert live

Chorus:

You have turned my mourning into dancing
You have turned my sorrow into joy

Verse 2:

Your hand lifted me up
I stand on higher ground
Your praise rose in my heart
And made this valley sing
(Sing chorus 2 times)
This is how we overcome (6 times)
(Sing chorus 2 times)

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Day 4

Bible Point—"God saves us, so...trust God!"

Bible Verse—"For I am with you and I will serve you," says the Lord!"
(*Jeremiah 30:11*)

Bible Story

In the Day 4 drama, we recalled what happened right before the Israelites left Egypt and crossed the Red Sea. Moses asked Pharaoh to let the Israelites go. Each time Pharaoh refused God sent a plague. Egypt was still reeling from nine severe plagues when God dealt the last and most convincing blow of all – the death of every firstborn son, from the poorest Egyptian slave to Pharaoh himself, no one's household would be spared. Except those of the Israelites.

God instructed the Israelites to carefully prepare for this event and to never forget it. Each household selected a lamb without blemish and sacrificed it to the Lord. The perfect lamb died in place of the firstborn child. This sacrifice became a symbol that the Israelites understood: An innocent life had to be taken to spare them from death. That night, death and grief filled every Egyptian house...but gratitude and renewed faith overflowed each Israelite home. The angel of death "passed over" every Israelite home. Although they didn't understand it at the time, that sacrifice looked forward to the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus, the Lamb of God, who shed his blood and died so that all who believe in him might be saved from spiritual death and eternity apart from God. God saved us by sending his Son, Jesus, to be the sacrifice for our sins. (*From Exodus 12:1-30*)

Day 5

Bible Point—"God guides us, so...trust God!"

Bible Verse—"I will bless the Lord who guides you!" (*Psalm 16:7*)

Bible Story

Following the battle with the Amalekites, Moses led the Israelites to Mount Sinai, where years earlier he met God at the burning bush. Again God spoke to Moses – this time promising that Israel would be God’s treasured possession, his holy people, if they would obey God. Then God gave Moses a list of laws by which the Israelites should live. The Hebrew words for “Ten Commandments” are “Ten Words.” The term “words” was the technical expression for covenant guidelines. On Sinai, God laid down his expectation for righteous living. These guided the Israelites as they formed a new nation. God provided the “Ten Words” to keep his people safe, unified, and focused on their relationship with him.

In the thousands of years that have passed since this event, one thing hasn’t changed: We need to love God with all of our heart, mind and strength. This covenant – or agreement – between God and his people is more than a list of do’s and don’ts; the Ten Commandments bring God’s character to light. Through these words from God, we discover what God values and expects from his people. These guidelines for living are timeless and still guide families today. (*From Exodus 20*)

Sermon – Pastor Shari

Sermon Song.....“Let God Arise”

Verse:

Hear the holy roar of God resound
Watch the waters part before us now
Come and see what he has done for us
Tell the world of his great love
Our God is a God who saves
Our God is a God who saves

Chorus:

Let God arise, let God arise
Our God reigns now and forever
He reigns now and forever
(Repeat verse, chorus, chorus)

Our God is a God who saves (3 times)

Let God arise, let God arise
Our God reigns now and forever
He reigns now and forever
(Repeat)

Prayers of Intercession

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world.

A brief silence.

Expansive God, you bring diverse voices together to form your church. Open our hearts and unstop our ears to learn from one another, that differences might not overshadow our baptismal unity. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Providing God, your creation shows us that life comes from death. Renew the places where our land, air, and waterways have been ill for too long. Direct the work of all who care for birds and their habitats. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Protecting God, sustain and keep safe all who work to defend others across the world. Revive and strengthen organizations dedicated to caring for refugees and migrants while their homelands struggle for peace. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Loving God, you promise to be with all who are persecuted for your sake. Guide all who speak your word of justice and console any who are tormented or targeted for being who they are. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Compassionate God, you are with us and we are never alone. Bless all fathers and father figures who strive to love and nurture as you do. Comfort all who long to be fathers and all for whom this day is difficult. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Reigning God, you bless us with medical professionals and caregivers. Thank you for their dedication and care. Help us increase our care for one another and bless those who are in special need this day: *Cy, Judi, Don, Becky, Nancy, Barbara, Doug, Christi, Jeff, Vicki, Bernie, Ethan, Joy, Melody, Jason, Sharon, Al, Kathryn, Mike, Michael, Dee, Lynne, Annika, Beth, Dustin & Anastasiya, Gene, Richard, Ruth, Jay, Gil, Joan, Lew, Robert, Chuck; Terry, Trent, Jill & Kyle; Friends and Family of Dorie, Jack and Susan.*

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving at the Table

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

The 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass 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 and ever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Friends of Jesus, come to the table. Receive nourishment for your journey.

Distribution of Communion

At this time take the elements you have with you saying these words:

The Body of Christ given for you. The Blood of Christ shed for you.

Post Communion Prayer

God of the welcome table, in this meal we have feasted on your goodness and have been united by your presence among us. Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts so that we may share your neighborly love with all, through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life.

Amen.

VBS in Summary Video

Blessing

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

God, the creator, ✝ Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love.

Amen.

Closing Hymn....."God Will Guide Us" Music Video

(Wilderness Escape Theme Song)

Verse:

So many years, so many trials
God has been with us through them all
He gives us strength
Through his power
He will never let us down
And we sing Oh...
God will guide us. Oh...
He will provide for us
Through the wilderness
He will deliver us. Oh...Hey!
(Repeat verse)

Chorus:

He's done it before
He'll do it again
He is faithful
He is faithful
(Sing chorus 3 more times)

Oh, God will guide us
Oh, he will provide for us
Through the wilderness, he will deliver us
Oh, hey! Oh, hey! Oh, hey!

Composed by Jay Stocker
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Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.