

## Unsettled but Unafraid: A Liturgy for Worshipping at Home

Week of August 23, 2020

St. Simons Presbyterian Church

Although we are not able to gather in-person for worship, we are able to gather in spirit. This liturgy is designed to be used alongside the worship video, although it can be used on its own. Use it individually or as a family. If you are using it in a family setting, consider giving each person one part to lead. If using individually, try to carve out 10-minutes to quietly read, reflect, and pray through. No matter how you worship, God will show up. Liturgy this week was compiled by Rev. Annie Franklin Arvin.



### **Call to Worship** *(included in video)*

Children of God, come!

**We come together to remember God's love.**

Trusting in you, we bring our hopes and our doubts.

**Pick us out of the water.**

Come, draw us into your time and place.

**Let us worship God with joy!**

### **Scripture** - Exodus 1:8-2:10 *(included in video)*

Then a new king, to whom Joseph meant nothing, came to power in Egypt. "Look," he said to his people, "the Israelites have become far too numerous for us. Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country."

So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labor, and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites and worked them ruthlessly. They made their lives bitter with harsh labor in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their harsh labor the Egyptians worked them ruthlessly.

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiphrah and Puah, "When you are helping the Hebrew women during childbirth on the delivery stool, if you see that the baby is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live." The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live. Then the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and asked them, "Why have you done this? Why have you let the boys live?" The midwives answered Pharaoh, "Hebrew women are not like Egyptian women; they are vigorous and give birth before the midwives arrive."

So God was kind to the midwives and the people increased and became even more numerous. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own.

Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: "Every Hebrew boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live."

Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him.

Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it. She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said. Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?" She answered, "Yes, go." So the girl went and got the baby's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So the woman took the baby and nursed him. When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out of the water."

### **Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer** *(included in video)*

*In today's worship video, many voices of SSPC prayed this prayer. Below you'll find the framework for the prayers of the people and you are invited to expand upon the prayer requests below as you pray.*

God of compassion, when we forget your love, you remind us. Your Spirit flows throughout your people as it was you that sent Jesus Christ into the world to walk among us, to experience the joys and the pains of human life, and to share with us a grace deeper and wider than we can ever know, so it is to you, O God, that we pray:

For your **Church** throughout here in throughout the land...

For the **creation** you gave life and order to...

For your **peace** to be in our hearts and your **justice** to flow throughout this world...

For **wisdom and love to inspire the leaders** in our town and in our country...

For those who are **oppressed** in this community and in this nation...

For those who are **sick** and ill from coronavirus and all other ailments...

For those who **grieve** the loss of a loved one this day...

For your people who are in **need of shelter, security, food, and water**...

We give these prayers to you trusting in your love for you people as we say the prayer Jesus Christ taught us praying:

*Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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 debts as we forgive our debtors;*

*and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.*

### **To Ponder Prayerfully:**

“When Christians remember well, we are able to explore the story of God's involvement with the world and to draw on that entire story to locate and understand what is going on at any particular time within it. That is what makes Scripture indispensable to the Christian journey of reconciliation.

Scripture both forms Christian memory and shapes concrete possibilities for life in the world. The more Christians are able to ground reconciliation as a journey with God from old toward new, the more we are able to recover the indispensable gifts that sustain that journey and make it possible.”

-Emmanuel Katongole and Chris Rice, *Reconciling All Things*

#### A Prayer for the Week:

Grant unto us, O God, the fullness of your promise.  
Where we have been weak, grant us your strength;  
where we have been confused, grant us your guidance;  
where we have been distraught, grant us your comfort;  
where we have been dead, grant us your life.  
Apart from you, O Lord, we are nothing,  
in and with you we can do all things.

**Amen.**

United Church of Canada *Service Book* (1969)