

Sunday September 13, 2020 – Easter Hill United Methodist Church

**Bible Study – Exodus 14:19-31 and Exodus 15:1b-11 & 20-21
“Into the Sea”**

Open with a word of prayer

Gathering Time (5-10 minutes). In pairs or groups of three, share a time you experienced intense fear.

Exodus 14:19-31 Context: With the tenth plague, the death of the firstborn, Pharaoh is finally persuaded to let the Israelites go. The people hastily gather their possessions (including the bread dough that had not yet leavened), received clothing and jewelry of gold and silver from the Egyptian people as a “parting gift,” and headed for the mountain of God. As they journeyed through the wilderness, God led them in a pillar of smoke by day and pillar of fire by night. Back in Egypt, Pharaoh had a change of heart and sent out his chariots to pursue the Israelites and bring them back. This week’s reading recalls the climactic moment when the Israelites cross the sea on dry land, and the pursuing Egyptians are drowned.

Exodus 15:1b-11 & 20-21 Context: This week’s psalm is taken from one of the oldest songs in the Bible: the “song of Moses,” echoed in the “song of Miriam” in the last two verses, songs of praise that render in poetry the climax of the Exodus from Egypt.

Read Exodus 14:19-31 and Exodus 15:1b-11 & 20-21

What touches your heart, what do you hear in the scripture, what questions do you have, or what doesn’t make sense to you in the story?

Write down your thoughts or share your thoughts with the person or group you are with.

Read Exodus 14:19-31 and Exodus 15:1b-11 & 20-21 again

Some reflection questions – Write down your thoughts or share your thoughts with the person or group you are with.

- How would you have felt witnessing the events described in this passage? Would you have had compassion on the Egyptians as you watched them driven into the sea? Why or why not?
- What do you think the Israelites would have learned about God from this experience?
- What do we learn about God from this passage?

- Recall a time when you felt God liberated or freed you. Share what you can about that experience with the group. How was God with you during that difficult journey?
- What might it mean to “fear” the Lord (14:31)? How does that connect with the belief that God is our hope?

Read Exodus 14:19-31 and Exodus 15:1b-11 & 20-21 again

Closing Reflection Question

How is this scripture calling you to change, to see, to be or what might it be calling you to do?

Prayer (10 minutes). Each person prays sharing their answer the following statements:

I ask God for....

I thank God for.....

Sending Forth (2 minutes). After all, have shared, pray the closing prayer. Ask for a volunteer to lead the group or read the following prayer in unison:

Almighty God, we give you thanks as the God who defeated the ultimate enemies of sin, death, and evil. We praise you that through an eternal relationship with you, we experience freedom and abundance. Equip us to stretch out our arms to help others experience your grace and love.
Amen.

And now we pray 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.

Lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power

and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.