



Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church  
Online Worship Service  
Sunday, August 23, 2020 at 11am  
21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Gathering Around the Word

**Welcome and Announcements**

The Rev. Jennie Sankey

**Introit**

*"Sweet Hour of Prayer" arr. Joel Raney*

Hyoun Joo Song

**Call to Worship**

The Rev. Katie Day

One: Through heaven's eyes, we are God's people.

**All: And God calls us to freedom.**

One: Like Shiprah and Puah, Miriam and Pharaoh's daughter,

**All: We make way for new life.**

One: Through heaven's eyes, we are God's people, called to worship our liberating God.

**All: Let us worship God.**

**Hymn 451**

*Open My Eyes, That I May See*

## Open My Eyes, That I May See 451



1 O-pen my eyes, that I may see glimps-es of truth thou hast for me.  
 2 O-pen my ears, that I may hear voic - es of truth thou send-est clear.  
 3 O-pen my mouth, and let me bear glad - ly the warm truth ev-ery-where.



Place in my hands the won-der-ful key that shall un - clasp and  
 And while the wave notes fall on my ear, ev - ery-thing false will  
 O - pen my heart, and let me pre-pare love with thy chil - dren



set me free. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy  
 dis - ap-pear. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy  
 thus to share. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy



will to see. O-pen my eyes; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di-vine!  
 will to see. O-pen my ears; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di-vine!  
 will to see. O-pen my heart; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di-vine!



The first woman to publish a collection of her own anthems, this author/composer has created in this hymn a sung prayer for illumination. It not only asks God to help us understand Scripture but also prays for the strength and courage to make God's love known to others.

**Call to Confession**

Katie

**Prayer of Confession**

God, sometimes it's easy for us to forget that you are the God of life, creating, enlivening, and valuing each living creature. For the times we have not recognized how the suffering and toiling of others drains life from us all, forgive us. For the times we have been too preoccupied to be willing to wade into the bullrushes, to receive the gifts you've placed alongside and among us, forgive us. Open us so that we might recognize You calling us to something better through the voices right around us: the midwives, the sisters, the mothers. Forgive us, and help us to hone our senses to see life the way you see it: beloved. Amen.

**Assurance of Grace****Passing of the Peace**

Katie

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

**The Word Read and Proclaimed****Children's Sermon**

Katie

**Prayer for Illumination**

Grace Helmstetter

**First Scripture Reading**

Exodus 1:8-21

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live." But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?" The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families."

**Anthem***"God You Made Me in Your Image"*

Chancel Choir

arr. Lloyd Larson

Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live."

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. 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. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

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. 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. 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?" Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. 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. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

**Sermon**

Through Heaven's Eyes: We Are Midwives

Jennie

**Responding to the Word****Affirmation of Faith**from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

**Prayers**

Katie

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

## Invitation to Offering

Jennie

To give: ● return to [www.pleasanthillpc.org](http://www.pleasanthillpc.org) and click on the Giving tab or

● text givePHPC to 73256 or

● mail your offering to the church – 3700 Pleasant Hill Road Duluth, GA 30096

Hymn 700

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

DEDICATION AND STEWARDSHIP

700 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

1 I'm gon-na live so (live so)  
 2 I'm gon-na work so (work so) God can use me an - y -  
 3 I'm gon-na pray so (pray so)  
 4 I'm gon-na sing so (sing so)

where, Lord, an - y - time!  
 (an - y - time!)  
 I'm gon-na  
 I'm gon-na  
 I'm gon-na  
 I'm gon-na

live so (live so)  
 work so (work so) God can use me an - y -  
 pray so (pray so)  
 sing so (sing so)

where, Lord, an - y - time!  
 (my Lord,) (an - y - time!)

This African American spiritual has more depth than may at first appear: for people who are bound in slavery to sing about dedicating themselves to God's use shows a profound awareness of God-given self-worth despite circumstances that would deny their human or spiritual value.

## Following the Word into the World

**Charge and Benediction**

Jennie

**Postlude**

*"Hymn"*  
*by Douglas Wagner*

Hyoun Joo

Some of this morning's prayers are adapted from *Call to Worship*.

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