

Bible Reading for September 27

Exodus 17:1-7 From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" ³But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

Discussion Questions

• *Once more, the people are complaining to Moses. What is it they are lacking? Thinking more deeply, what else is it that they are lacking—not just the immediate physical need? Though God has already provided plenty of food for them, and has brought them safely into the wilderness, there's a concern that they will go thirsty. Yet we know God will take care of them! This is not a tension that will go away, throughout their forty years in the wilderness, the people will struggle to live in faith that God will take care of them. How have you learned to trust Jesus, to rely on God, in your life? Are there places where it is difficult to see how God could provide?*

I would love to hear about what God is showing you in your reading. Call 256-353-6941 or email miriam@centralunitedmethodist.com to let me know your thoughts before next Sunday.



September 20, 2020
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Love GOD



Love OTHERS



SERVE the World



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Musical Gift

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

arr. Arison

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Rev. Miriam Smith

Prayer Chorus *Say a Prayer for Me* †

Message — “Food to Eat” Rev. Miriam Smith

Prayers of the People Rev. Miriam Smith

Choral Response *Let Us Break Bread Together* Afro-American spiritual

**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 for ever. Amen.**

Benediction and Blessing Rev. Miriam Smith

Musical Gift *Because He Lives* arr. Arison

Bible Reading — Exodus 16:11-15 Rev. Miriam Smith

Singers: Doug Maze, Lindy Smith, Chuck Thompson, Susan Thompson
Soloist: Doug Maze
Organist: Brenda Berryman

—[Prayer]

**Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed,
we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**

The Lord spoke to Moses and said, “I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.’” In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.

† *Say a Prayer for Me* by Jeff Lippencott © 2001 Lippencott Music. CCLI # 2306531

Welcome!

Communion will be available outside today between 11:30-12:15. Please listen for directions at the end of the service.

We are so happy to be here together! Here are a few guidelines for how we can worship safely together:

Please stay seated until the ushers come to guide you out of the Sanctuary. If you would like to make your offering while you are here today, there is an offering plate by the door. You may also continue to give using our website or by mailing a check.

In order to help keep everyone safe, please take your bulletins and any trash with you when you leave.

This service will be livestreamed on YouTube and a recording will be posted on social media for watching at a later time.

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**