

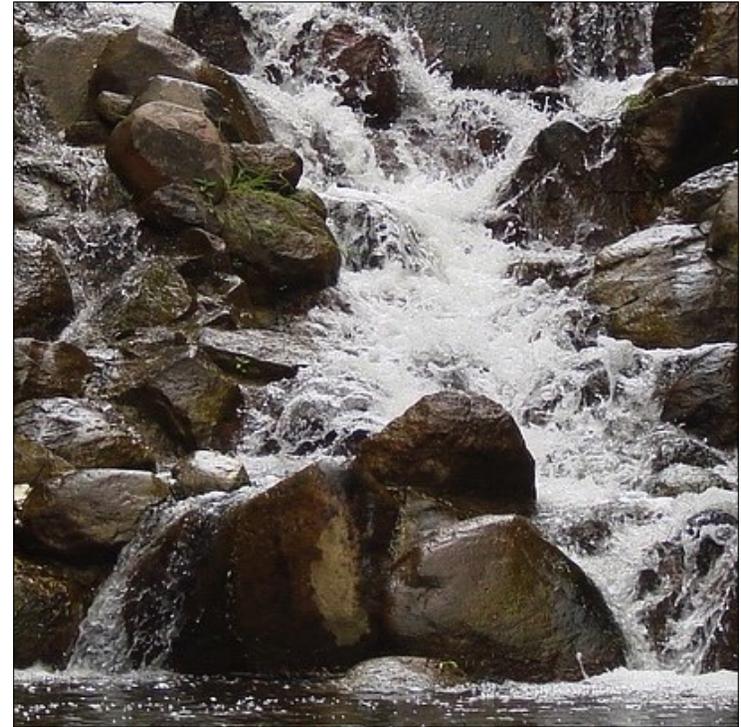
Bible Reading for October 4

Philippians 3:4b-14 If anyone else has reason to put their confidence in physical advantages, I have even more: ⁵I was circumcised on the eighth day. I am from the people of Israel and the tribe of Benjamin. I am a Hebrew of the Hebrews. With respect to observing the Law, I'm a Pharisee. ⁶With respect to devotion to the faith, I harassed the church. With respect to righteousness under the Law, I'm blameless. ⁷These things were my assets, but I wrote them off as a loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸But even beyond that, I consider everything a loss in comparison with the superior value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I have lost everything for him, but what I lost I think of as sewer trash, so that I might gain Christ ⁹and be found in him. In Christ I have a righteousness that is not my own and that does not come from the Law but rather from the faithfulness of Christ. It is the righteousness of God that is based on faith. ¹⁰The righteousness that I have comes from knowing Christ, the power of his resurrection, and the participation in his sufferings. It includes being conformed to his death ¹¹so that I may perhaps reach the goal of the resurrection of the dead. ¹²It's not that I have already reached this goal or have already been perfected, but I pursue it, so that I may grab hold of it because Christ grabbed hold of me for just this purpose. ¹³Brothers and sisters, I myself don't think I've reached it, but I do this one thing; I forget about the things behind me and reach out for the things ahead of me. ¹⁴The goal I pursue is the prize of God's upward call in Christ Jesus.

Discussion Questions

- Paul has a lot to say about why the people reading his letter should be impressed with him. Yet it is not worth a thing when it comes to what he has in Jesus. If you were writing this letter, what would you list as your "credentials" (see verses 5-6)?
- Who are you, as far as the rest of the world can tell?
- How does it compare to what you have in your relationship with Jesus?

As you ponder these things in preparation for Sunday, I would love to hear what God is saying to you. Call me in the church office at 256-353-6941 or email me at miriam@centralunitedmethodist.com.



September 27, 2020
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost



Love GOD



Love OTHERS



SERVE the World



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Musical Gift

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Rev. Miriam Smith

Prayer Chorus

Glorify Thy Name



Prayers of the People

Rev. Miriam Smith

**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.**

Bible Reading — Exodus 17:1-7

Rev. Miriam Smith

—[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.**

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. The 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?” But 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?” So Moses cried out to the Lord, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” The 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. I 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. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

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

Message — “Strike the Rock”

Rev. Miriam Smith

Choral Response

As the Deer

†

Benediction and Blessing

Rev. Miriam Smith

Musical Gift

Singers: Doug Maze, Lindy Smith, Chuck Thompson, Susan Thompson
Organist: Virginia Paul

† *Glorify Thy Name* by Donna Adkins © 1976 Maranatha Music.

As the Deer by Martin J. Nystrom © 1984 Maranatha Praise Inc. CCLI # 2306531

Welcome!

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.