



June 21, 2020. The 3rd Sunday after Pentecost. Part three of “Unraveled” series.

## GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE

Prelude

Greeting

Call to Worship

One: Gracious God, we bring you the broken parts of ourselves.

**All: Hem us in before and behind.**

One: Creator God, we bring you the joyful parts of ourselves.

**All: Weave us together in hope and praise.**

One: God of new life, we bring you doubt and faith knotted up in our hearts.

**All: Unravel our doubt. Weave faith into our hearts.**

**Draw us together and point us toward you.**

One: In hope and faith we pray. In hope and faith we worship.

**All: Amen.**

Prayer of Confession

**God of creation, Humanity is capable of such evil.**

**Stories in scripture alongside stories on the news**

**remind us of that truth all the time. For the moments when we choose violence over peace, exclusion over inclusion, and fear over hope—forgive us.**

**When we choose pride over what is right, and comfort over justice— Show us mercy. And when we numb our pain instead of leaning into empathy—**

**Unravel us, for we long to be changed. Gratefully we pray, Amen.**

*(Pause for Silent Confession)*

Words of Assurance and Passing of the Peace

Hymn #198 “My Soul Gives Glory to My God”

Pastoral Prayer and Lord’s Prayer

Offering and Prayer of Thanksgiving

Hymn “Rizpah Was a Loving Mother” - See Attached

## PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

2 Samuel 21:1-14

21 There was a famine for three years in a row during David’s rule. David asked the Lord about this, and the Lord said, “It is caused by Saul and his household, who are guilty of bloodshed because he killed the people of Gibeon.” 2 So the king called for the Gibeonites and spoke to them.

(Now the Gibeonites weren’t Israelites but were survivors of the Amorites. The Israelites had sworn a solemn pledge to spare them, but Saul tried to eliminate them in his enthusiasm for the people of Israel and Judah.)

3 David said to the Gibeonites, “What can I do for you? How can I fix matters so you can benefit from the Lord’s inheritance?”

4 The Gibeonites said to him, “We don’t want any silver or gold from Saul or his family, and it isn’t our right to have anyone in Israel killed.”

“What do you want?” David asked. “I’ll do it for you.”

5 “Okay then,” they said to the king. “That man who opposed and oppressed us, who planned to destroy us, keeping us from having a place to live anywhere in Israel— 6 hand over seven of his sons to us, and we will hang them before the Lord at Gibeon on the Lord’s mountain.”

“I will hand them over,” the king said.

7 But the king spared Mephibosheth, Jonathan’s son and Saul’s grandson, because of the Lord’s solemn pledge that was between them—between David and Saul’s son Jonathan. 8 So the king took the two sons of Aiah’s daughter Rizpah, Armoni and Mephibosheth, whom she had birthed for Saul; and the five sons of Saul’s daughter Merab, whom she birthed for Adriel, Barzillai’s son, who was from Meholah, 9 and he handed them over to the Gibeonites. They hanged them on the mountain before the Lord. The seven of them died at the same time. They were executed in the first days of the harvest, at the beginning of the barley harvest.

10 Aiah’s daughter Rizpah took funeral clothing and spread it out by herself on a rock. She stayed there from the beginning of the harvest until the rains poured down on the bodies from the sky, and she wouldn’t let any birds of prey land on the bodies during the day or let wild animals come at nighttime. 11 When David was told what Aiah’s daughter Rizpah, Saul’s secondary wife, had done, 12 he went and retrieved the bones of Saul and his son Jonathan from the citizens of Jabesh-gilead, who had stolen the bones from the public square in Beth-shan, where the Philistines had hanged them on the day the Philistines killed Saul at Gilboa.

13 David brought the bones of Saul and his son Jonathan from there and collected the bones of the men who had been hanged by the Gibeonites. 14 The bones of Saul and his son Jonathan were then buried in Zela, in Benjaminite territory, in the tomb of Saul’s father Kish. Once everything the king had commanded was done, God responded to prayers for the land.

Sermon

“Rizpah Mourns”

## RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

Blessing

Postlude

# Rizpah Was A Loving Mother

A Hymn Inspired by 2 Samuel 21:1-14

Text: Stephen M. Fearing, 2019

Tune: EBENEZER

Meter: 8.7.8.7 D

Music: Thomas John Williams, 1890

Voice

The musical score is written for a single voice part in 4/4 time, featuring a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with several triplet markings (indicated by a '3' over the notes). The lyrics are arranged in four-line stanzas, with line numbers 1, 4, 7, 10, and 13 marking the beginning of new stanzas. The music concludes with a double bar line.

1. Riz - pah was a lo - ving mo - ther, forced to<sup>3</sup> watch her  
2. Sleep - ing on naught but a sack - cloth, Riz - pah watched her  
3. Through her length - y pu - blic vi - gil, Riz - pah preached, she  
4. Hear the pa - rents all a - round us, those whose child - ren  
sons' de - mise. Help - less to pre - vent their slaught - er,  
sons de - cay. Long she held her sol - lemn vi - gil,  
test - i - fied. She showed us the sense - less vio - lence,  
live in fear. See their an - guish at the vio - lence,  
filled with<sup>3</sup> naught but heav - y cries. Da - vid<sup>3</sup> o - ferred  
shield - ing them through night and day. Soon the birds came  
Riz - pah's grief was just - i - fied. May we learn from  
let's make just - ice per - se - vere! Let us learn from  
them as price to sa - tis - fy those wronged by Saul.  
for the feast - ing, but she chased them from her sons.  
her in - sist - ence, may we cease our point - less rage.  
Riz - pah's mourn - ing, may we hear her wail - ing cry.  
Soon her boys were ex - e - cut - ed, strung up<sup>3</sup> to be viewed by all.  
Ma - ny wit - nessed Riz - pah's an - guish, watched her mourn her pre - cious ones.  
May we wit - ness this hard stor - y, ush - er in a kind - er age.  
Help us, Lord, to cease our fight - ing. May our mer - cy mult - i - ply!



#### Pastor

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#### Ministers

All of us



## **WEEKLY GPS**

**GROW**

**PRAY**

**STUDY**

#### **Coming Next:**

#### **"Unraveled"**

June 28	Zacchaeus invited	Luke 19:1-10
July 5	Pharaoh Hardens	Exodus 5:1-2, 7:8-23
July 12	Saul Blinded	Acts 9:1-20

#### **SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK: 2 Samuel 21:**

When David was told what Rizpah had done, he went and retrieved the bones of Saul and his son Jonathan.

#### **DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>2 Samuel 23:1-7</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Luke 17:11-21</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Luke 18:1-8</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Luke 18:9-14</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Luke 18:15-30</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Luke 18:31-43</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Luke 19:1-10</b>

#### **CARING CONVERSATIONS or REFLECTIONS**

- ◇ **Thinking about this week's story:** Rizpah's public protest pushed David into action and brought justice to the land. What is the role of public protest today?
- ◇ **Thinking About Next Week's Story:** The readings this week should all be read through the lens of Luke 17:20-21. The Kingdom of God is already among you. What are the signs of the Kingdom? If the Kingdom of God is among you, where have you noticed?
- ◇ **Unraveling thought:** What is unraveling in your world? What needs to be unraveled?

# **Two Rivers Connections**

**Subscribe to the Two Rivers e-newsletter by going to  
<http://tworiversumc.org/subscribe>**

**This week's Connections Schedule:**

**Sunday 10:30-11:30—Adult Sunday School**

**Monday 12:00-1:00 — Bible Study**

**Wednesday 12:00-12:30—Devotion and Prayer**

**Wednesday 5:00-6:00 — Youth Zoom\***

**Thursday 7:00-8:00—Pub Theology\***

**Zoom Room ID: 961-006-728**

**Zoom Password: 029397**

**Phone Number: 312-626-6799**

**\*Youth Zoom and Pub Theology have different Zoom codes.**