



July 5, 2020. The 5th Sunday after Pentecost. Part five of “Unraveled” series.

Prelude	
Greeting	
Special Music	“America the Beautiful” - Ward/Bates Mark Swessinger, Baritone
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	
One: God, you have asked us to be like Moses—Standing up for your people, standing up for justice.	
All: But too often we are like Pharaoh—Holding onto power, or holding onto privilege.	
One: God, you ask us to be like Aaron—Who stood by his brother to unravel systems of oppression.	
All: But too often we align with Pharaoh—Saying “no” to change and unraveling your vision for justice and peace.	
One: Forgive us for all the ways we stand on the wrong side of history.	
All: Forgive us for the harm we do to your planet, and for the harm we do to your children.	
One: Help us to be like Moses.	
All: Forgive us when we’re like Pharaoh. Amen.	
Words of Assurance and Passing of the Peace	
Hymn #121 “There’s a Wideness In God’s Mercy”	
Pastoral Prayer and Lord’s Prayer	
Offering and Prayer of Thanksgiving	
Hymn “Pharaoh Was a Brutal Tyrant” - See Attached	
Exodus 5:1-2, 7:8-23	
	5 Afterward, Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, “This is what the Lord, Israel’s God, says: ‘Let my people go so that they can hold a festival for me in the desert.’”
	2 But Pharaoh said, “Who is this Lord whom I’m supposed to obey by letting Israel go? I don’t know this Lord, and I certainly won’t let Israel go.”
	7 8 The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 9 “When Pharaoh says to you, ‘Do one of your amazing acts,’ then say to Aaron, ‘Take your shepherd’s rod and throw it down in front of Pharaoh, and it will turn into a cobra.’”
	10 So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and did just as the Lord commanded. Aaron threw down his shepherd’s rod in front of Pharaoh and his officials, and it turned into a cobra. 11 Then Pharaoh called together his wise men and wizards, and Egypt’s religious experts did the same thing by using their secret knowledge. 12 Each one threw down his rod, and they turned into cobras. But then Aaron’s rod swallowed up each of their rods. 13 However, Pharaoh remained stubborn. He wouldn’t listen to them, just as the Lord had said.
	14 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Pharaoh is stubborn. He still refuses to let the people go. 15 Go to Pharaoh in the morning. As he is going out to the water, make sure you stand at the bank of the Nile River so you will run into him. Bring along the shepherd’s rod that turned into a snake. 16 Say to him, The Lord, the Hebrews’ God, has sent me to you with this message: Let my people go so that they can worship me in the desert. Up to now you still haven’t listened. 17 This is what the Lord says: By this you will know that I am the Lord. I’m now going to hit the water of the Nile River with this rod in my hand, and it will turn into blood. 18 The fish in the Nile are going to die, the Nile will stink, and the Egyptians won’t be able to drink water from the Nile.” 19 The Lord said to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Take your shepherd’s rod and stretch out your hand over Egypt’s waters—over their rivers, their canals, their marshes, and all their bodies of water—so that they turn into blood. There will be blood all over the land of Egypt, even in wooden and stone containers.’”
	20 Moses and Aaron did just as the Lord commanded. He raised the shepherd’s rod and hit the water in the Nile in front of Pharaoh and his officials, and all the water in the Nile turned into blood. 21 The fish in the Nile died, and the Nile began to stink so that the Egyptians couldn’t drink water from the Nile. There was blood all over the land of Egypt. 22 But the Egyptian religious experts did the same thing with their secret knowledge. As a result, Pharaoh remained stubborn, and he wouldn’t listen to them, just as the Lord had said. 23 Pharaoh turned and went back to his palace. He wasn’t impressed even by this.
Sermon	“Pharaoh hardens”
Musical Response	“Go Down, Moses” Mark Swessinger, baritone
Blessing	
Postlude	“Alleluia”

Pharaoh Was a Brutal Tyrant

A Hymn Inspired by Exodus 7:8-23

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 a 4/4 time signature. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody features several triplet markings (indicated by a '3' over the notes). The lyrics are written below the staff, with line numbers 4, 7, 10, and 13 marking the beginning of new lines of text. The hymn concludes with a double bar line.

Pha - raoh was a bru - tal ty - rant, caught up³ in his
Mo - ses joined his bro - ther, Aa - ron, to de - li - ver
Pha - raoh laughed at God's com - mand - ment, he re - fused to
We have Pha - raoh's all a - round us, may - be we are

4
thirst - y greed. Long the Is - rael - ites had suff - ered,
God's de - mand. They were sent to guide God's peo - ple,
let them go. When he stood out by the banks he
like him, too. May we heed God's call for kind - ness,

7
so they cried out to be freed. Pha - raoh wor - shipped
bring them to the pro - mised land. When God called for
saw the ri - ver's blood - y flow. Though he could have
may we see God's grace en - sue. God will turn God's

10
high pro - duct - ion, look - ing to the bot - tom line.
Pha - raoh's ac - tion, he ob - ject - ed from the start.
stopped the ter - ror, end - ing Eg - ypt's hor - rid pain,
sure at - tent - ion to the place where there's des - pair.

13
All his sub - jects did his bid - ding, kneel - ing³ down be - fore - his shrine.
Pha - raoh failed to fol - low just - ice, cal - lous - ing his hard - ened heart.
Pha - raoh chose to wel - come vio - lence, all to save his wretch - ed reign.
Let us join in God's sal - va - tion for all peo - ple ev' - ry - where.



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Ministers

All of us



WEEKLY GPS

GROW

PRAY

STUDY

Coming Next:

"Unraveled"

July 12	Saul Blinded	Acts 9:1-20
July 19	Jeremiah Calms	Jeremiah 29:1-7
July 26	Samaritan Woman	John 4:1-29

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK: Exodus 5:2

Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, "Let my people go so that they can hold a festival for me in the desert."

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday	Exodus 12:29-42
Tuesday	Acts 7:1-53
Wednesday	Acts 7:54-8:1
Thursday	Acts 8:1-3
Friday	Acts 8:4-25
Saturday	Acts 8:26-40

CARING CONVERSATIONS or REFLECTIONS

- ◇ **Thinking about this week's story:** Pharaoh's heart was hardened. He stubbornly clung to his power and it caused the suffering of many people. To what do we cling that causes suffering? What are we holding onto that needs to be unravelled?
- ◇ **Thinking About Next Week's Story:** Saul was blinded by the light of Christ. Do you remember a moment of conversion (maybe not as dramatic as Saul, but a moment when you saw Christ more clearly than you ever had before?)

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—Midday Prayer Service

Wednesday 5:00-6:00 — Youth Zoom* (No Youth Zoom July 8)

Thursday 7:00-8:00—Pub Theology* (No Youth Zoom July 9)

Zoom Room ID: 961-006-728

Zoom Password: 029397

Phone Number: 312-626-6799

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