

## SCRIPTURE

### Exodus 13:17-22 (NIV)

When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, though that was shorter. For God said, "If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt." <sup>18</sup>So God led the people around by the desert road toward the Red Sea. The Israelites went up out of Egypt armed for battle.

<sup>19</sup>Moses took the bones of Joseph with him because Joseph had made the sons of Israel swear an oath. He had said, "God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up with you from this place."

<sup>20</sup>After leaving Succoth they camped at Etham on the edge of the desert. <sup>21</sup>By day the LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. <sup>22</sup>Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.

## SERMON OUTLINE

**Everyone is on the road to their destination of choice. But God is in the interruption business. Maybe we could call it the "life correction" business. But we must be constantly reminded:**

I. **God is faithful even during those "\_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_" moments!**

II. **Even when we long for Plan A, trust that God's Plan B is even \_\_\_\_\_!**

III. **Resist the temptation to picture yourself as the \_\_\_\_\_!**

IV. **Getting things back to the \_\_\_\_\_ is rarely the most helpful thing to do!**

V. **Our \_\_\_\_\_ might be what we most need to be saved from!**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
MARCH 22, 2020  
4TH SUNDAY IN LENT

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PRELUDE/MOMENT OF QUIET REFLECTION Cheryl Mayhew, organist

† CALL TO WORSHIP

God wants to nurture us, we should be thankful for God's generosity. Let us follow God's laws and He will lead us to the promised land. We want God's love and approval. Let us rejoice!

† OPENING HYMN "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

*In the cross of Christ I glory, towering o'er the wrecks of time; all the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.*

*When the woes of life o'ertake me, hopes deceive, and fears annoy, never shall the cross forsake me. Lo! it glows with peace and joy.*

*When the sun of bliss is beaming light and love upon my way, from the cross the radiance streaming adds more luster to the day.*

*Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, by the cross are sanctified; peace is there that knows no measure, joys that through all time abide.*

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

O God, show us the path we must take. It is our failure to give; our failure to love; our failure to follow; our failure to serve; our failure to be the people You would have us be that prevents us from being wholly yours. Forgive us and renew us. You know our true nature and our failings. Enfold us in your arms so that we may know Your forgiveness and healing love. Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

"The time is coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah." "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

† GLORIA PATRI

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost: As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen.*

CHORAL ANTHEM

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / 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. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

HYMN OF PREPARATION

*"There Is A Redeemer"*

*There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son, Precious lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One,*

*[Chorus] Thank you oh my Father, For giving us your Son, And leaving your Spirit, 'til the work on earth is done.*

*Jesus my Redeemer, Name above all names, Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Oh, for sinners slain. [Chorus]*

*When I stand in glory, I will see his face, And there I'll serve my King forever, In that holy place. [Chorus]*

MESSAGE

*"If You Want to Make God Laugh ..."*

Pastor Eric Gale

Exodus 13:17-22

† CLOSING HYMN

*"What Wondrous Love Is This"*

*What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!*

*To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing, to God and to the Lamb, I will sing; to God and to the Lamb, who is the great I AM, while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing, while millions join the theme, I will sing!*

*And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be, and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and through eternity I'll sing on!*

† BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE