



Newsletter Sunday, August 23 2020

Dear Friends of Emmanuel,

I am just back from a 'staycation'. It was a welcome relaxed time with many enjoyable outings. Being back among you (metaphorically) is a good feeling! I look forward to our weekly dialogue based on the readings for Sunday.

This week in our lessons (Exodus 1:8-2:10) we meet the story of Moses and his deliverance from death at the hands of his clever mother. I hope you get a chance to read it carefully. Here is what I gleaned from it. The Pharaoh was afraid of being overrun with Israelites, so he made a law and instructed all the midwives to kill all the male babies born to Hebrews. We can only imagine the dilemma that this presented to the women who worked so hard to birth children. To be asked to end the life of one just birthed was unthinkable to these life-giving women. The story continues and tells us of the way that the order of the Pharaoh is subverted. Clever women save at least one little baby boy and, of course, that is Moses.

I wonder how we can relate to this primitive way of viewing life and death. Today life is different from the centuries before Christ and our lives are not governed in simple terms like those that we observe in the Old Testament. However, there is an important thread that remains consistent in life then and our lives today. That is the question of whose authority do we obey. Where is the moral and ethical guidepost for us? The Egyptian daughter of the Pharaoh defied her father's order. Why? What did her heart say to her that made her do something so different? Her independent action gave us Moses, a powerful leader of the Israelites. Moses brought all the children of Israel out of bondage.

As we face the dilemmas of our time, we are required to seek the source of life, of goodness, of justice, of God to find the answers for our day. The Psalmist writes (Psalm 124), "Our help is in the Name of the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth." And so, it is. Our help is in the God of love whom we worship each day and celebrate each week. I pray that you can spend some time and ponder in your hearts what it means to be called *faithful* today.

I invite you to join us on Saturday at **5:00 p.m.** for our weekly live zoom service and dialogue sermon that is recorded and distributed for Sunday, August 23rd.

May God bless you,

The Rev. Joyce Caggiano

Live Zoom Service 5:00 pm
August 22, 2020

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/91086361917?pwd=aW9zcG5VK1JxWkd5Z3ZoY3JTVdD0dz09>

ID: 910 8636 1917
Passcode: 386586

Coffee Hour follows our live Zoom Service. (It is not recorded)

After 7:00 pm on Saturday, view the TAPED service anytime via our YouTube site:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEQm5KH2wGB_XbZ8h9jIdhA

Have a comment on our service/sermon dialog? We welcome your feedback on our YouTube page. Have a question for next week? Email us at info@emmanuelwr.org