



Worship at Trinity Lutheran Church (online edition)

July 12, 2020

ANTI-CREATION NARRATIVE (PHARAOH HARDENS HIS HEART TO MOSES' REQUESTS)

by lauren wright pittman

inspired by exodus 5:1-2; 7:8-23 | graphic image

Welcome as we gather together in the name of God! Whether we are physically present with one another or gathering remotely, we know that Christ is truly present in our midst

Each Sunday, we will gather at 9:30am in our building as well as via Facebook Live. The service will be posted on our YouTube page

(https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEBfzqqPTuf8fe3PjPr21gA?view_as=subscriber)

If you know of others who are in need of signs of God's love and grace, who are curious and/or questioning, who would like to experience the peace of Christ – please invite them to join us “live” and/or to visit our Facebook page or YouTube channel.

If anyone needs to talk to someone amidst this time of anxiety, please feel free to contact Pastor Jen via the church office (trinlutheranoffice@yahoo.com) and/or her personal email (revjedyer1@yahoo.com).

Our weekly emails are also posted on our website <http://trinitybrewsterny.org/wordpress/>.

Listed here is the order of worship so that you are able to follow along. We have included links to the hymns and an anthem picked by Franklyn that you may listen to in addition to our online service

*Congregational responses are in **bold**. You are invited to read aloud wherever you may be worshipping.*

HYMNS: While we gather for in-person worship, we will not be singing any of the hymns. We will either speak the words responsively and/or listen to the accompaniment. All the words have been included for devotional use.

Setting up: Set aside some sacred space where you are to worship and prayer. Light a candle (or more), set out your Bible and/or a cross. Spend a few moments in silence before you begin.

Unraveled: This year's summer series is about the ways in which our lives are unraveled and the ways in which God weaves them back together again.

Introduction: God calls Moses to approach Pharaoh for their release. Pharaoh's hard-heartedness results in ten plagues culminating in the death of the first-borns in Egypt. Not living into God's mercy brings death.

We will be going LIVE before beginning the service with time for reflection to allow time for people to join our live feed before the spoken portion of our service begins.

PRELUDE *“Thou Shalt Bring Them In” from Israel in Egypt* Georg Frideric Haendel

WELCOME

You are invited to comment below the video if there are particular prayers that you would like to lift up and have others pray about during the week. Please let us know that you are joining us online by commenting

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Listen. I have a story to tell—

A story of a God who longed for justice.

A story of a God who pushed back the waters to make dry land.

A story of a God who would not take “no” for an answer when it came to the safety of God’s own.

For God’s people were suffering. God’s people were crying out.

God’s people were shackled and bound by oppression.

So God said to Moses, “Speak.”

“Let my people Go.”

And Moses spoke— Over and over again.

Moses stood up for justice,

But over and over again, Pharaoh said no.

Power said no.

The path to justice is never easy, is it?

The path to change is never a straight line, is it?

So like Rosa, who sat on the bus,

and Martin who had a dream,

Moses kept trying.

God kept speaking.

Moses kept listening.

Hope kept breathing.

And when power tried to unravel justice,

The people kept dreaming.

God longed for justice.

God *still* longs for justice.

So let us worship God—for human injustice will never be strong enough to unravel God’s dream that all might be free, and all might know love.

Let us worship holy God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We pause in our God's humbling presence to lift up all those ways that we are bound by sin

Silence for reflection and self-examination

God, you have asked us to be like Moses—**Standing up for your people, standing up for justice. But too often we are like Pharaoh— Holding onto power, or holding onto privilege. God, you ask us to be like Aaron—Who stood by his brother to unravel systems of oppression. But too often we align with Pharaoh— Saying “no” to change and unraveling your vision for justice and peace. Forgive us for all the ways we stand on the wrong side of history. Forgive us for the harm we do to your planet, and for the harm we do to your children. Help us to be like Moses. Forgive us when we're like Pharaoh. Amen.**

God beyond all expectations revealed the fullness of his love and grace on the cross and through the empty tomb. Jesus Christ gave all for us that we might live the fullness of life that God has given us. May God's mercy and grace be woven into our lives as we receive the entire forgiveness of all our sins in the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

GATHERING HYMN *“Spread, Oh Spread, Almighty Word”* (ELW 663)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xtJNMgwzl6w>

(SPOKEN interspersed with INSTRUMENTAL)

- 1) Spread, oh, spread, almighty Word,
spread the reign of God the Lord
Send forth our Creator's call,
heaven's gifts extend to all
- 2) Tell of our Redeemer's grace,
who, to save our human race
And to pay rebellion's price,
gave himself as sacrifice

(INSTRUMENTAL INTERLUDE)

- 3) Tell of God the Spirit given
now to guide us on to heaven
Strong and holy, just and true,
working both to will and do

- 4) Lord of harvest, great and kind,
rouse to action heart and mind;
Let the gathering nations all
see your light and heed your call.

(INSTRUMENTAL)

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GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Merciful God, we gather together to offer You our praise and thanksgiving for the unfailing love You have shown toward us, generation after generation, and for the compassion that You shower upon us, day after day. You alone are our God. We are Your people. We pray that Your Holy Spirit would move among us as we worship. Open our hearts and our minds to see You at work among us, encouraging, challenging, uplifting, and inspiring, as each one has need. May our worship bring honor and glory to You. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. **Amen.**

READING: EXODUS 5:1-2; 7:8-23 Pharaoh Hardens His Heart to Moses' Requests

(When Humans Unravel God's Plans for Justice)

Afterwards Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, 'Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, "Let my people go, so that they may celebrate a festival to me in the wilderness." ' ²But Pharaoh said, 'Who is the LORD, that I should heed him and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, and I will not let Israel go.'

⁸ The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, ⁹'When Pharaoh says to you, "Perform a wonder", then you shall say to Aaron, "Take your staff and throw it down before Pharaoh, and it will become a snake." ' ¹⁰So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and did as the LORD had commanded; Aaron threw down his staff before Pharaoh and his officials, and it became a snake. ¹¹Then Pharaoh summoned the wise men and the sorcerers; and they also, the magicians of Egypt, did the same by their secret arts. ¹²Each one threw down his staff, and they became snakes; but Aaron's staff swallowed up theirs. ¹³Still Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the LORD had said.

¹⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Pharaoh's heart is hardened; he refuses to let the people go. ¹⁵Go to Pharaoh in the morning, as he is going out to the water; stand by at the river bank to

meet him, and take in your hand the staff that was turned into a snake. ¹⁶Say to him, “The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, sent me to you to say, ‘Let my people go, so that they may worship me in the wilderness.’ But until now you have not listened. ¹⁷Thus says the LORD, ‘By this you shall know that I am the LORD.’ See, with the staff that is in my hand I will strike the water that is in the Nile, and it shall be turned to blood. ¹⁸The fish in the river shall die, the river itself shall stink, and the Egyptians shall be unable to drink water from the Nile.”’ ¹⁹The LORD said to Moses, ‘Say to Aaron, “Take your staff and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt—over its rivers, its canals, and its ponds, and all its pools of water—so that they may become blood; and there shall be blood throughout the whole land of Egypt, even in vessels of wood and in vessels of stone.”’

²⁰ Moses and Aaron did just as the LORD commanded. In the sight of Pharaoh and of his officials he lifted up the staff and struck the water in the river, and all the water in the river was turned into blood, ²¹and the fish in the river died. The river stank so that the Egyptians could not drink its water, and there was blood throughout the whole land of Egypt. ²²But the magicians of Egypt did the same by their secret arts; so Pharaoh’s heart remained hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the LORD had said. ²³Pharaoh turned and went into his house, and he did not take even this to heart.

Word of God, Word of life Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life! Alleluia!

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 10:5-15

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 10th chapter **Glory to you, O Lord**

⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶ but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷ As you go, proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’^[a] ⁸ Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers,^[b] cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. ⁹ Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, ¹⁰ no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for laborers deserve their food. ¹¹ Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. ¹² As you enter the house, greet it. ¹³ If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴ If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: "O Zion, Haste" (ELW 668)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Otmdb-afNJM>

INSTRUMENTAL FOLLOWED BY SPOKEN

1 O Zion, haste, your mission high fulfilling,
to tell to all the world that God is light;
that he who made all nations is not willing
one soul should perish, lost in shades of night.

Refrain:

Publish glad tidings, tidings of peace,
tidings of Jesus, redemption, and release.

2 Publish to ev'ry people, tongue, and nation
that God, in whom we live and move, is love;
Tell how he stooped to save his lost creation
and died on earth that we might live above. [Refrain]

Refrain:

Publish glad tidings, tidings of peace,
tidings of Jesus, redemption, and release.

INSTRUMENTAL INTERLUDE

3 He comes again! O Zion, ere you meet him,
make known to ev'ry heart his saving grace;
let none whom he has ransomed fail to greet him,
through your neglect, unfit to see his face. [Refrain]

Refrain:

Publish glad tidings, tidings of peace,
tidings of Jesus, redemption, and release.

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APOSTLE'S CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

(Pastor Jen will be adding our fabric prayers to our community prayer wheel during this time)

Woven together as your whole Church, we lift our prayers before you, O Lord, for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

God of justice, you heard the cries of your people in bondage and freed them from Pharaoh's grasp. Heed the cries of your people today as we continue to seek relief from the evils of prejudice, racism and white supremacy. Inspire your people to speak on your behalf as we lift up your justice and peace. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of heaven and earth, we marvel at the wonders of your creating power and the intricacies of your imagination. Help us to look beyond the surface of the abundant life that surrounds us. Inspire us to be your loving hands as we care for all of your creation. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of nations, you hold the whole world in your hands. As we continue to deal with the effects of this pandemic, may we find ways to work together for the sake of all people. Be with scientists and researchers as they explore possible vaccines and treatments for this disease. Comfort those who have lost loved ones, strengthen those who are sick and bring patience and peace to those who care for others. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of body, mind and spirit, you created us wholly in your image. Heal those broken parts that no longer reflect your goodness. Bring relief to all those who suffer and comfort and

strength to those in pain. We lift up all those in our hearts and minds.....(pause) as well as those who have no one to name them. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other petitions may be offered.

Pastor: In the face of our own uncertainties, we offer all these prayers before you, O Lord, for with you nothing is impossible as is revealed through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SHARING THE PEACE

The Peace of the Christ be with you always **And also with you**

(you are invited to share the peace with those who are with you, by commenting in the Facebook feed as well as by calling/sending a message of peace to someone)

OFFERING *(You are invited to listen to this song as our “anthem” for this week. You are also encouraged to continue to share your offering with Trinity be mailing them to the church office or by donating online via our website: www.trinitybrewsterny.org)*

ANTHEM: *I Will Sing Unto the Lord for He Hath Triumphed* (from Israel in Egypt) Georg Frideric Haendel
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZzmxkBFPONw>

OFFERING PRAYER

God of love, you abide with us; you provide for all our needs and guide us in your ways. Out of gratitude for your care, we bring our gifts before you. Use them for your work of caring, that all may feast at the table of abundance, walk without fear, and drink deeply from the cup of compassion given through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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 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 forever and ever. Amen.**

MISSION & MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

DISMISSAL

Go, in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God!**

Please maintain a distance of 6 feet between yourself and those who are not part of your household as you leave your pew. Also please keep your mask on and do not linger in the building.

SENDING HYMN **Go Down, Moses** (Lead Me, Guide Me 650)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xSvU39fdYyA>

INSTRUMENTAL ONLY (use the lyrics as part of your devotions)

1 *When Israel was in Egypt's land,
Let my people go;
Oppressed so hard they could not stand,
Let my people go.*

*Refrain:
Go down, Moses,
Way down in Egypt's land,
Tell ol' Pharaoh,
let my people go.*

2 *The Lord told Moses what to do,
Let my people go;
To lead the children of Israel through,
Let my people go. [Refrain]*

3 *As Israel stood by the water side,
let my people go;
At God's command it did divide,
Let my people go. [Refrain]*

4 *When they had reached the other shore,
let my people go;
They sang the song of triumph o'er,
Let my people go. [Refrain]*

5 *Oh, let us all from bondage flee,
Let my people go;
And let us all in Christ be free,
Let my people go. [Refrain]*

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(The worship has ended, let the service begin)

Worship Notes: Parts of today's worship are adapted by Pastor Jen Boyd from the following sources: Opening litany & Prayer of the Day ("*Prayer by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org*"); Prayers of Intercession (Jennifer Boyd); *Offering prayer* (Mary Petrina Boyd, <http://www.ministrymatters.com/>)

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In Our Prayers

We are particularly mindful of so many who are in need of prayers during this time. You are invited to contact Pastor Jen to add specific names to this list:

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Prayers of Healing

Robert Peters (father of Stephen Peters)
Pastor Marv Henk (re-hospitalized)
Diane & Frank Strittmatter (friends of Dorothy Kafalas)
Danielle Nestor (ankle surgery)
Mary Gerhardt (hip surgery)
Jill Russo's dad (cancer)
Maisa Tompuri
Danny Brooks (Carol Brooks' nephew)
Ursula Merolla (recently hospitalized)

Prayers for those serving in the medical community

Jeannette Baldanza (Putnam Co. Dept. of Health)
Michael Conroy (Putnam Hospital)
Dr. Lauren Icken (Resident @ Albany Med)
Eric Klammer (FDNY)
Lisa Schuldt (Westchester Medical)
Jeff Von Bargaen (Putnam Hospital)

Prayers for essential workers

Justin Larocchia (Corrections)
Kystal Langke (Postal worker)

Prayers of the Wider Church

Bishop Elizabeth Eaton (Presiding Bishop of the ELCA) and ELCA staff
Bishop Paul Egensteiner (Bishop of Metro NY Synod) and synod staff
Mother Gladys Diaz (deployed Asst. to Bishop for our area)

Prayers for families who have had loved ones die

Families of

Additional Prayers

Announcements

Re-open Plans: Following the recommendation of the Re-open Task force, the Church council has voted to re-open for in-person worship. Please carefully read the **Procedures document** to detailed information about what plans are in place and the expectations for those who plan to attend. There are numerous changes that are being made.

Please note: *If you do not feel ready or comfortable to returning to in-person worship, please do not feel pressured or guilty about your decision. We will continue to offer worship on Facebook Live. In addition, if decisions are made by local or state governments regarding this status change, we will follow their guidance.*

Bible Study: continues to meet Wednesday nights via Zoom (see link below) that will dovetail with our Sunday morning themes (see next announcement)

Summer Worship Series: *Unraveled* - What happens when our world falls apart? How do we press onward when our tightly-knit plans unravel into loose threads? What do we become when our identity—or the path we're on—comes undone? What if all of this is not the end we fear it will be? In our unraveling, sometimes life surprises us with unexpected joy, love, and hope—with a new beginning we couldn't have imagined. Sometimes we need God to unravel us, for we long to be changed.

This series will explore **12 stories** of unraveled shame, identity, fear, grief, dreams, and expectations. These stories will frame our worship and be used in Bible study. A **study journal** and an intergenerational **prayer art project** will be a part of this series as well.

Upcoming readings:

July 19: ACTS 9: 1-20 The Conversion of Saul to Paul (*Discovering a New Path*)

July 26: JEREMIAH 29:1-7 Encouraging the Israelites in Exile to Plant Gardens & Build Houses
(*When Dreams Unravel*)

August 2: JOHN 4:1-29 The Samaritan Woman at the Well (*Unraveled Shame*)

August 9: JOHN 20:19-29 Doubting Thomas (*When the Unimaginable Has Happened*)

August 16: EXODUS 1:22; 2:1-10 Moses' Mother Gives Moses Up So He Can Live
(*When Our Plans for Our Children Unravel*)

August 23: JOB 28:12-28 Job's Lament & Loss (*Seeking Understanding When Everything Has Fallen Apart*)

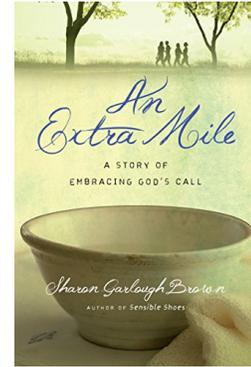
August 30: MARK 5:1-20 Jesus Heals Legion, a Man Possessed by Demons (*The Unraveling of the Mind*)



“Essential Pets of Trinity”: Check out our video now on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBfzqqPTuf8fe3PjPr21gA>

Faith Book Club will meet again on Monday, July 20th (7pm) The next book is "An Extra Mile: a story of embracing God's call" by Sharon Garlough Brown. This is the last book in this series. All are invited to join us.



2020 Graduates: Please send the name of the graduates in your household so that we may honor them and celebrate with them. Please send their names as well as the place that they are graduating from and what degree (as applicable) to Pastor Jen (please send even if you think she already knows)

Graduation Pictures: Jennifer Morello has offered to put together a video of past and present graduation pictures from those who are a member of Trinity. Please submit your photos via e-mail to jenmorello24@gmail.com

Recycling efforts: Terracycle has discontinued the cereal bag collection so we will not be collecting them anymore at Trinity. Unfortunately, these are not allowed in your regular recycling bins and must be put in the trash. We will continue to collect the beauty products and dental products.

Also, for those of you with returnable bottles and cans, you can go to Carmel Beverage on Rt. 52 in Carmel which is open for returnables, or to Quick and Easy Bottle Returns on Old Route 6 in Carmel. You can find them on FaceBook.

Newsletter: Since we are sending out regular updates, we will not have a newsletter sent out. If there is information that you need, please feel free to contact the church office (trinlutheranoffice@yahoo.com) and/or Pastor Jen (revjdye1@yahoo.com)

Food Pantry: As the need grows for those in our community, you are invited to drop off items for Putnam CAP's food pantry. You may either drop them off here at Trinity or at the CAP office on Main Street in Brewster. You can find an updated list of their current needs on their website:

<http://putnamcap.org/index.html>



Zoom Gatherings: Each of the gatherings use the same password (410002) except where indicated, but different meeting ids; see below for each of the links. *If you need the links at any time, please contact Pastor Jen (revjedye1@yahoo.com or call/text 518-231-4633)*

Weekly gatherings

Wednesdays (7pm) Bible study Meeting ID: 346 900 784)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/346900784?pwd=RnBtMEo4QUhQOG9veEZjRVNwMkd2QT09>

Fridays (10am) Thread & Yarn group (Meeting ID: 890-6099-7152)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89060997152?pwd=cW15NThGVzA5YUdsYWdKVGVJYdVBkUT09>

Sundays

10:30 **Coffee Hour/Fellowship** (Meeting ID: 435 263 0119)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4352630119?pwd=YXo0a241ZkJMMThKb1FSbm5ITEZqUT09>

Offering

You are also encouraged to continue to share your offering with Trinity by mailing them to the church office or by donating online via our website: www.trinitybrewsterny.org . Please note that we are not depositing offerings every week, but about once a month.

Artist's statement

ANTI-CREATION NARRATIVE

(PHARAOH HARDENS HIS HEART TO MOSES' REQUESTS)

by lauren wright pittman inspired by exodus 5:1-2; 7:8-23 | graphic image

As I sketched this image of Pharaoh, I realized how cartoonish and irrelevant this character had become in my mind. What would Pharaoh look like today? I sat with this question as a creeping sense of irony came over my body. I would argue, to my surprise, that a modern Pharaoh might look a bit like the reflection in my mirror, and maybe in yours.

This story of Pharaoh's hardening heart leads to a kind of anti-creation narrative—one where the world is coming undone and actively being destroyed. Sound familiar?

As a society, we are actively undoing God's creation through our consumption while clinging to ease, convenience, and our power over our environment. We harden our hearts to the ways our actions cause harm. We value our comfort over the health of our coastlines while the first climate refugees flee their homes due to rising tides and sinking land. As water becomes scarce, violence will increase. Many will have to fight for their basic needs. I believe Pharaoh's hardening heart is prophetic. This narrative reveals to us how a person's clinging to power can literally unravel creation. We often undo the threads of creation, while God entreats us to become co-creators. We have seam rippers in our hands when God wants us to have needle and thread. There is a difficult hope in the narrative, however. Our own unraveling of God's dream for creation is not strong enough to thwart God's plan. Ultimately the Israelites find liberation. In this image, the waters of the parted Red Sea frame the chaos of the plagues. We will succeed, with God's help, in healing the earth. We just need to allow God to soften our hearts, to take initiative in changing our perspective, and to welcome the challenge of restoring creation.