Mariner's DISCOVERY Church

OurMDC.org
(925) 354-1096
1641 Bixler Road,
Discovery Bay
California 94505

Program for Sunday, August 23, 2026.

Please welcome the worship music team this week!

Call to Worship: *River of Life*
Holy Water

Announcements for Sunday 8/23/2026

Thanks for joining our Worship Service this Sunday

- **The Pool is available for your use. You can signup in the carport, or during the week please contact the office at 925-354-1096** to make a reservation. Since we don't have a life guard on duty a liability waiver form will need to be filled out and signed. Also, a **Special Thanks** to Bobby for keeping it Crystal Clear!!!!!
- **Please mark your calendars for NEXT SUNDAY, August 30th as we plan to have a Baptism Service and BBQ/Potluck following the worship service.** If you're interested in being baptized, please contact Pastor Larry.
- **If you have any prayer requests,** please fill out a Connect Envelope and place it in the wooden offering boxes in the back. Also, during the week you can email requests at: **PrayerRequest@OurMDC.org**
- **PrayerRequest@OurMDC.org**
  Thank You for your Offerings!!
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Adoration *Lord I Need You*
Selected Scriptures reading: Selections from Exodus
Message: 10 Plagues and Pharaoh's Hard Heart
Affirmation: *Made New*

Close of Worship Service, Fellowship continues

Exodus 7:17–18 ‘Thus says the LORD, “By this you shall know that I am the LORD: behold, I will strike the water that is in the Nile with the staff that is in my hand, and it will be turned to blood. The fish that are in the Nile will die, and the Nile will become foul, and the Egyptians will find difficulty in drinking water from the Nile.”
7:22 But the magicians of Egypt did the same with their secret arts; and Pharaoh’s heart was hardened, and he did not listen to them, as the LORD had said.
Exodus 8:3–5 “The Nile will swarm with frogs, which will come up and go into your house and into your bedroom and on your bed, and into the houses of your servants and on your people, and into your ovens and into your kneading bowls. “So the frogs will come up on you and your people and all your servants.” Then the LORD said to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Stretch out your hand with your staff over the rivers, over the streams and over the pools, and make frogs come up on the land of Egypt.’ ”
8:15 But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and did not listen to them, as the LORD had said.
Exodus 8:16–19 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the earth, that it may become gnats through all the land of Egypt.’ ” They did so; and Aaron stretched out his hand with his staff, and struck the dust of the earth, and there were gnats on man and beast. All the dust of the earth became gnats through all the land of Egypt. The magicians tried with their secret arts to bring forth gnats, but they could not; so there were gnats on man and beast. Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God.” But Pharaoh’s heart was hardened, and he did not listen to them, as the LORD had said.
Exodus 8:21–22 “For if you do not let My people go, behold, I will send swarms of flies on you and on your servants and on your people and into your houses; and the houses of the Egyptians will be full of swarms of flies, and also the ground on which they dwell. “But on that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, where My people are living, so that no swarms of flies will be there, in order that you may know that I, the LORD, am in the midst of the land.
8:32 But Pharaoh hardened his heart this time also, and he did not let the people go
Exodus 9:2–4 “For if you refuse to let them go and continue to hold them, behold, the hand of the LORD will come with a very severe pestilence on your livestock which are in the field, on the horses, on the donkeys, on the camels, on the herds, and on the flocks. But the LORD will make a distinction between the livestock of Israel and the livestock of Egypt, so that nothing will die of all that belongs to the sons of Israel.”
9:7 Pharaoh sent, and behold, there was not even one of the livestock of Israel dead. But the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, and he did not let the people go.
Exodus 9:8–11 Then the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, “Take for yourselves handfuls of soot from a kiln, and let Moses throw it toward the sky in the sight of Pharaoh. It will become fine dust over all the land of Egypt, and will become boils breaking out with sores on man and beast through all the land of Egypt.” So they took soot from a kiln, and stood before Pharaoh; and Moses threw it toward the sky, and it became boils breaking out with sores on man and beast. The magicians could not stand

before Moses because of the boils, for the boils were on the magicians as well as on all the Egyptians.
9:12 And the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not listen to them, just as the LORD had spoken to Moses.
Exodus 9:25–26 The hail struck all that was in the field through all the land of Egypt, both man and beast; the hail also struck every plant of the field and shattered every tree of the field. Only in the land of Goshen, where the sons of Israel were, there was no hail.
9:34 But when Pharaoh saw that the rain and the hail and the thunder had ceased, he sinned again and hardened his heart, he and his servants.
Exodus 10:12–15 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the land of Egypt for the locusts, that they may come up on the land of Egypt and eat every plant of the land, even all that the hail has left." So Moses stretched out his staff over the land of Egypt, and the LORD directed an east wind on the land all that day and all that night; and when it was morning, the east wind brought the locusts. The locusts came up over all the land of Egypt and settled in all the territory of Egypt; they were very numerous. There had never been so many locusts, nor would there be so many again. For they covered the surface of the whole land, so that the land was darkened; and they ate every plant of the land and all the fruit of the trees that the hail had left. Thus nothing green was left on tree or plant of the field through all the land of Egypt.
10:20 But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not let the sons of Israel go.
Exodus 10:21–22 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward the sky, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even a darkness which may be felt." So Moses stretched out his hand toward the sky, and there was thick darkness in all the land of Egypt for three days.
10:27 But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he was not willing to let them go.
Exodus 12:29–30 Now it came about at midnight that the LORD struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of cattle. Pharaoh arose in the night, he and all his servants and all the Egyptians, and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was no home where there was not someone dead.
Exodus 11:10 Moses and Aaron performed all these wonders before Pharaoh; yet the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not let the sons of Israel go out of his land.
Devotional: **Exodus 3:14 G**od said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"
Before Exodus 3

- Israel is now enslaved and there is a Pharaoh who knew not Joseph.
- Moses has been rescued as an infant and brought into Pharaoh's household.
- At 40, Moses, in his own strength, murders an Egyptian taskmaster.
- Moses is rejected by his own people.
- Moses flees to Midian.
- Moses becomes a shepherd of his father-in-law's sheep.

- At 80, Moses is not with his own people, not in his own land, speaking a language not his own tending sheep that are not his own.

Moses meets the LORD (Exodus 3,4)

- **The God Who interrupts ordinary life (Exodus 3:1-3)**
  - Pay attention to spiritual interruptions, they might be divine invitations.
- **The God Who declares holiness (Exodus 3:4-6)**
  - Relationship begins with worship, not work.
- **The God Who sees, hears, knows, comes down (Exodus 3:4-6)**
  - God comes down: God enters to deliver. This is the gospel.
- **Moses' 1st objection: "Who am I?" (Exodus 3:11-12)**
  - Lessons: Faith precedes sight. Obedience precedes confirmation. God's promises are often validated after we step out in faith.
- **Moses' 2nd objection: "Who are You?" (Exodus 3:13-15)**
  - "I Am Who I am." "I will Be Who I will be."
- **Moses' 3rd objection: "Who are they?" (Exodus 4:1-9)**
  - The God Who equips the doubting servant.
- **Moses' 4th objection: "I am not eloquent." (Exodus 4:10-12)**
  - Weakness is not a barrier. Weakness is a platform.
- **Moses' 5th objection: "Send someone else." (Exodus 4:13-17)**
  - God is patient with weakness. God confronts rebellion.
- **The staff of God: God's Authority in human hands (Exodus 4:17)**
  - The staff is the visible reminder that Moses is not alone. God provides presence, partnership, and power.

1. The Plague of Blood (Exodus 7:14-25)

Exodus 7:22 "But the magicians of Egypt did the same with their secret arts; and **Pharaoh's heart was hardened**, and he did not listen to them, just as the LORD had said."

- The Nile is struck first. It is the lifeblood of Egypt's economy, the bloodstream of the god Hapi.
- The problem with a heart that is hard is not a lack of evidence.
- An unconverted heart can absorb a genuine miracle and still explain it away.
- Magician's counterfeit sign gives Pharaoh a pretext for unbelief.
- Guard against treating counterfeit spiritual experiences as sufficient grounds for dismiss the living God.
- Can we respond to what God has made plain?

2. The Plague of Frogs (Exodus 8:2-14)

Exodus 8:15 "But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, **he hardened his heart** and did not listen to them, just as the LORD had said."

- Nation is infested with frogs. Pharaoh summons Moses and Aaron. Asks them to ask God to remove the frogs.
- This is foxhole religion. "Lord, get me out of this, and I will change." When pressure lifts; broken promise follows.

- Beware of bargaining with God rather than surrendering to him.
- Relief from suffering is not the same thing as repentance from sin.

3. The Plague of Gnats (Exodus 8:16-19)

Exodus 8:19 "Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, 'This is the finger of God.' But **Pharaoh's heart was hardened**, and he did not listen to them, just as the LORD had said."

- The 3rd plague marks the limit of the magician's counterfeit power.
- A hardened heart can outlast the testimony of its own closest advisors.
- If a refusal persists in spite of clearest testimony. One more proof is what stands between the hardened heart and God.
- There is a temptation to let repeated exposure to truth dull our response.
- Intellectual acknowledgment of God's existence is not the same as saving faith.

4. The Plague of Flies (Exodus 8:21-31)

Exodus 8:32 "But **Pharaoh hardened his heart this time also**, and he did not let the people go."

- This is the 1st plague when God distinguishes between Goshen (Hebrews) and Egypt.
- Pharaoh negotiates again: offering sacrifice with the land, then a 3 day journey.
- The flies are removed (relief), Pharaoh hardens his heart (pattern). Pharoah is guilty repeated self-conscious promise-breaking.
- Repeated bad faith is not a series of unrelated failures. It is a pattern and God is keeping the record.
- Our pattern? Negotiated obedience, partial surrender, promise kept, only until the crisis passes. God is not fooled.

5. The plague of Livestock Disease

Exodus 9:7 "Pharaoh sent, and behold, there was not even one of the livestock of Israel dead. But **the heart of Pharaoh was hardened**, and he did not let the people go."

- Pharaoh sends investigators to Goshen to confirm that the Hebrew livestock is not dead.
- Verified, investigated, double-checked evidence does not by itself soften a hardened heart.
- Evidence and saving faith are related, but the second is never automatic from the first.
- Pray for the Spirit's regenerating work in yourself and others, since only He can move a heart from acknowledgment to surrender.
- Why does scripture treat hardness of heart as a moral condition rather than an intellectual deficiency?

6. The plague of Boils (Exodus 9:8-11)

Exodus 9:7 "Pharaoh sent, and behold, there was not even one of the livestock of Israel dead. But **the heart of Pharaoh was hardened**, and he did not let the people go."

- Pharaoh sends investigators to Goshen to confirm that the Hebrew livestock is not dead.
- Verified, investigated, double-checked evidence does not by itself soften a hardened heart.
- Evidence and saving faith are related, but the second is never automatic from the first.
- Pray for the Spirit's regenerating work in yourself and others, since only He can move a heart from acknowledgment to surrender.
- Why does scripture treat hardness of heart as a moral condition rather than an intellectual deficiency?

7. **The plague of Hail (Exodus 9:18-26)**
   Exodus 9:7 "Pharaoh sent, and behold, there was not even one of the livestock of Israel dead. But **the heart of Pharaoh was hardened**, and he did not let the people go."
   - Pharaoh sends investigators to Goshen to confirm that the Hebrew livestock is not dead.
   - Verified, investigated, double-checked evidence does not by itself soften a hardened heart.
   - Evidence and saving faith are related, but the second is never automatic from the first.
   - Pray for the Spirit's regenerating work in yourself and others, since only He can move a heart from acknowledgment to surrender.
   - Why does scripture treat hardness of heart as a moral condition rather than an intellectual deficiency?
8. **The plague of Locusts (Exodus 10:4-15)**
   Exodus 10:1 "Then the **LORD** said to Moses, 'Go to Pharaoh, for **I have hardened his heart and the heart of his servants**, that I may show these signs of Mine among them.'
   - God explains why. God hardens for a purpose. His name would be declared to generations yet unborn. Pharaoh's resistance becomes a means of declaring the glory of God across history.
   - Pharaoh appears to relent. He offers to Moses to release the men, but not the women, children, or flocks. This is partial obedience. Moses refuses. After the locusts devastate what the hail has spared, Pharaoh again confesses sin. The plague lifts. Pharaoh does let the sons of Israel go.
   - Can you trust that the purposes of God in your present trials may extend beyond your own lifetime and understanding?
9. **The plague of darkness (Exodus 10:4-15)**
   Exodus 10:1 "But **the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart**, and he was not willing to let them go."
   - 3 Days of darkness fall over Egypt, while all the sons of Israel had light in their dwellings. Ra is the chief sun-god of the Egyptian pantheon.

- Pharaoh again bargains, demanding their flocks and herds remain behind as collateral. Moses rejects. Pharaoh threatens Moses (the undeniable messenger of God).
- Hardness of heart eventually crystallizes into open hostility toward the messengers of God.
- Can we trust the outcome to God when we are facing opposition when we are speaking the truth in love?
- Repeated exposure to truth can sometimes produce greater hostility.

10. The death of the Firstborn (Exodus 12:29-30)

Exodus 11:10 "Moses and Aaron performed all these wonders before Pharaoh, yet **the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart**, and he did not let the sons of Israel go out of his land."

- The death of the firstborn in all of Egypt (and none for the sons of Israel) has done what the previous 9 plagues did not. Pharaoh's response was "Rise up, go forth from among my people… take your flocks and herds, as you have said, and go." The death of what he loved most broke what nothing else could move. But that is not the same as a new heart. The new heart requires the work of the Holy Spirit. His response is not repentance but capitulation under unbearable, irreversible grief (death of his own son).
- The Pharaoh's grip on Israel, but never the grip of sin and pride on his own heart.

What hope is there for the hardened heart?

- Every human heart, apart from grace, is explained in Jeremiah 17:9 'The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it?'
- The Apostle Paul said in Romans 3:10b-11

"THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;
THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS,
THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD;

- By our human nature, we are like Pharaoh: resistant, self-justifying, capable of confessing the truth with our lips while our hearts remain unmoved.
- What the plagues could not accomplish in Pharaoh, God accomplishes freely by grace through the finished work of Jesus Christ in everyone who repents and believes.

You are not alone. God is with you! MDC wants to help. We are here for you.

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