

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday, September 27, 2026

Opening Words Exodus 17: 1-7

Water From the Rock

The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. So they quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink."

Moses replied, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the Lord to the test?"

But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?"

Then Moses cried out to the Lord, "What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me."

The Lord answered Moses, "Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink." So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the Lord saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

***Hymn "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" Hymnal 117 Verses 1-3**

WORDS: Isaac Watts, MUSIC: William Croft

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home!

Under the shadow of thy throne,
still may we dwell secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone
and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,

from everlasting, thou art God,
to endless years the same.

Welcome

Pastor Scott Clawson

Call to Worship

The apostle Paul calls us to “let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.” What is the mind of Jesus?

The mind of Jesus is to love God, neighbor, self, and all creation.

Paul reminds us that “it is God who is at work in you.” How is God at work in us?

God enables us through grace to love God, neighbor, self, and all creation.

Paul exhorts us to “work on your own salvation with fear and trembling.” How do we work on our own salvation?

We cooperate with grace to love God, neighbor, self, and all creation.

Beloved, we gather to worship God who, through Jesus, shows us how to love and enables us to love as Christ loves us.

We gather to learn how to live in full accord through our love of God, neighbor, self, and all creation.

Hymn “O God, Our Help in Ages Past” Hymnal 117 Verses 4-6

A thousand ages in thy sight,
are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends the night,
before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever rolling stream,
bears all who breathe away;
they fly forgotten as a dream
dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come;
be thou our guide while life shall last,
and our eternal home.

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

Most wonderful God,
the beauty we see in Jesus
is your beauty veiled in human flesh,

the love we witness from Bethlehem to Golgotha
is your love contracted to a span.
If Christ's life is so holy as to fill us with wonder,
how much more would your unveiled beauty
leave us overwhelmed and trembling?
You are more than the eye could bear,
more than the mind can ever fathom.

Yet you have so carefully made us
that although we cannot fathom you,
we can yet love you.
Gratefully, we bring our little lives to you,
asking that our worship may arise from love and be shaped by love,
and be directed towards that larger loving which is our soul's desire.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Anthem

Prayer of Confession

Within the strength of community, in the power of silence, we come
before God with the truth of our lives, trusting in the mercy and love of
our Creator. Let us offer our confession before God and each other.

Holy God, we know that in so many ways

We have run from you,

We have ignored your call,

We have closed our eyes to your presence,

We have disbelieved your mercy,

We have disregarded your words,

We have belittled ourselves,

We have forsaken others.

**So we ask, once again, for your forgiveness. We ask you to
stay with us as we turn away from what is wrong and hurtful
to what is bright and life-giving. And hear now our silent
prayers.**

Receive the good news:

God's love abounds for us,

Forgiving us and restoring us to

Community with God and one another.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Glory to God! Amen.

New Testament Reading Philippians 2: 1-13

Imitating Christ's Humility

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;
rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Do Everything Without Grumbling

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Massah and Meribah"
Pastor Scott Clawson

* Hymn "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me" Hymnal 361

Words: Augustus M. Toplady, Music: Thomas Hastings

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood,
from thy wounded side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure;
save from wrath and make me pure.

Not the labors of my hands
can fulfill thy law's demands;
could my zeal no respite know,
could my tears forever flow, all for sin could not atone;
thou must save, and thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring,
simply to the cross I cling;
naked, come to thee for dress;
helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul I to the fountain fly,
wash me, Savior or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath,
when mine eyes shall close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown,
see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee.

Benediction

Beloved, remember: God is at work in you, enabling you to will and to work for God's pleasure. **May God bless us with a spirit of joyful cooperation and Christian love as we work together with God and neighbor for the flourishing of all God's creation. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication

Response "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" Hymnal 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him, all creatures here below.

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

9:30 AM WORSHIP LEADERS

Lay Reader: Chris Berry
Ushers/ Greeters: Kocher Family

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NMUMC by the Numbers: September 20, 2026

8:15 AM: 15 9:30 AM: 35 11:00 AM: 37 Online: 26

Total Offering: \$5,356.00 *Regular Offering:* \$4,315.00*
Food Pantry: \$50.00 Hope4Kids: \$60.00 New Ministry Center:
\$681.50

Organ Fund: \$150.00 Pastor's Discretionary Fund: \$100.00

**Amount Needed to Meet Weekly Budget: \$5,862.53*

Church Meetings

Monday, September 28: 11:00 AM Choir Rehearsal – 5:30 PM – ED Building

Tuesday, September 29: Morning Bible Study – 10:00 AM – Sanctuary

Wednesday, September 30: Online Bible Study – 7:00 PM – Contact Patty Robinson

Thursday, October 1: 11:00 AM Choir Rehearsal – 6:30 PM – ED Building

Saturday, October 3: Men's Breakfast – 8:00 AM – Schoolhouse

Saturday, October 3: Christian Believers Session – 10:00 AM – ED Building Kitchen

Sunday, October 4: World Communion Sunday

Fresh Start Service: This service will be held at 8:15 am at Fairview Chapel. (6802 Boyers Mill Rd, New Market 21774) The design for this service is for those who want to get an early start on their Sunday and those who are seeking an alternate worship experience. Acoustic guitar, prayer, a short inspirational message, and Communion will be highlighted. The service is designed to last a half hour. OR join us later for an evening service at 6:00 PM

The Wednesday night Zoom Bible study will begin on Wednesday, **September 23, 2026** at 7:00 PM

The class will continue the study started last Spring, "Not Guilty—Be Free to Experience God's Love," by Brian and Candice Simmons. This is a devotional study on the Book of Romans. You can jump in at any time. If you are interested and need a book, let Patty Robinson know—240-441-1170.

**Mark Your Calendars now for the Fiesta Friday dinner on Friday,
October 16.**

Daily Devotions Starting 9/28/26

Monday (9/28)- Exodus 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20

How do you apply the Ten Commandments to your life? Do you use them as a guide or a way of living?

Tuesday (9/29)- Psalm 19

How can you use verse 14 this day as a reminder of all your interactions with others this day?

Wednesday (9/30)- Isaiah 5: 1-7

Why is the vineyard owner angry with its stewards? Have you ignored justice and righteousness? In what ways?

Thursday (10/1)- Philippians 3: 4b-14

In what ways have you “pressed on” in the Lord this year? How has the Lord sustained you in your efforts?

Friday (10/2)- Matthew 21: 3-46

In what ways do you show your respect for the “Son”? Where do you need to improve in this endeavor?

Saturday (10/3)- Luke 19: 11-27

In what ways do you view your resources? Are they a gift from the Lord, or did you earn them? How can you “marry” these two positions?

Sunday (10/4)- Worship in person or online.

Pastor Scott's Contact Information: Pastorscott62@gmail.com

240-409-8119 | Summer Office Hours: Thursday | 11 AM-4 PM