

MUMC At-Home Worship:

August 16, 2020

Our movie themed worship continues! The guide below shares the scripture I'm pairing with last year's live action *Aladdin* in my sermon and the movie we're showing next week on August 21 at 9pm is *Hidden Figures*. Remember that in addition to using this guide, you're welcome to hear a recording of the last Sunday's sermon at **734-206-1531** any time! (My apologies for those who called in after August 2 and heard an old sermon – we had a several days delay in uploading the newest recording. We should be much more timely in the weeks to come.) I pray you have a blessed and joyous week!
-Pastor Dillon

If available, place a candle in the center of your gathering space and light it with this prayer:

God, you delighted in this world from the moment of its creation. May our worship remind us that you have loved us from the start and inspire us to live as the children of God you created us to be. Amen.

Hymn: *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me*, United Methodist Hymnal #361 – [watch/listen here](#)

New Testament Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Reflect:

1. The author of Ephesians draws a contrast between their audience's former lives ("like a dead person," verse 1) and current selves ("brought us to life," verse 4). Have you experienced this contrast in your own life?
2. The rhetorical high point of this passage is in the final verses explaining that we are saved by grace alone and not by anything we did. Why might this be an important point to make? How might it change how we understand and interact with our own faith/salvation?
3. The passage ends by declaring that we are "created in Christ Jesus to do good things," which is both a reminder of our calling as those saved by grace but also a testimony to God's intentional creation. Indeed, our salvation is not a replacement of personhood but truly a resurrection of our originally created selves! Based on your unique gifts and personality, what good things do you imagine God might have had in mind for you from the beginning? Have you taken any on in life so far?

Hymn: *Standing on the Promises*, United Methodist Hymnal #374 – [watch/listen here](#)

Prayer Requests: Share prayer requests and have a moment of silent prayer

Lord's Prayer

Hymn: *Wonderful Words of Life*, United Methodist Hymnal #600 – [watch/listen here](#)

Closing Prayer:

Loving God of our redemption, commend us this week to the good works you have planned for us. Rather than taking pride in our salvation, may we overflow with appreciation for your grace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen. (*Blow out the candle*)

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me
United Methodist Hymnal #361

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.

“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me” words are by Augustus M. Toplady, 1776, and are in the public domain.

Ephesians 2:1-10 (CEB)

At one time you were like a dead person because of the things you did wrong and your offenses against God. You used to live like people of this world. You followed the rule of a destructive spiritual power. This is the spirit of disobedience to God’s will that is now at work in persons whose lives are characterized by disobedience. At one time you were like those persons. All of you used to do whatever felt good and whatever you thought you wanted so that you were children headed for punishment just like everyone else.

However, God is rich in mercy. He brought us to life with Christ while we were dead as a result of those things that we did wrong. He did this because of the great love that he has for us. You are saved by God’s grace! And God raised us up and seated us in the heavens with Christ Jesus. God did this to show future generations the greatness of his grace by the goodness that God has shown us in Christ Jesus.

You are saved by God’s grace because of your faith. This salvation is God’s gift. It’s not something you possessed. It’s not something you did that you can be proud of. Instead, we are God’s accomplishment, created in Christ Jesus to do good things. God planned for these good things to be the way that we live our lives.

Scripture quotations noted CEB are taken from the Common English Bible, copyright 2011. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Standing on the Promises

United Methodist Hymnal #374

1. Standing on the promises of Christ my King,
through eternal ages let his praises ring;
glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
standing on the promises of God.

Refrain:

Standing, standing,
standing on the promises of God my Savior;
standing, standing,
I'm standing on the promises of God.

2. Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
when the howling storms of doubt and fear
assail,
by the living Word of God I shall prevail,
standing on the promises of God. (*Refrain*)
3. Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,
bound to him eternally by love's strong cord,
overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,
standing on the promises of God. (*Refrain*)
4. Standing on the promises I cannot fall,
listening every moment to the Spirit's call,
resting in my Savior as my all in all,
standing on the promises of God. (*Refrain*)

*"Standing on the Promises" words are by R. Kelso Carter, 1886,
are based on Ephesians 6:14-17, and are in the public domain.*

Wonderful Words of Life

United Methodist Hymnal #600

1. Sing them over again to me,
wonderful words of life;
let me more of their beauty see,
wonderful words of life;
words of life and beauty
teach me faith and duty.

Refrain:

Beautiful words, wonderful words,
wonderful words of life.
Beautiful words, wonderful words,
wonderful words of life.

2. Christ, the blessed one, gives to all
wonderful words of life;
sinner, list to the loving call,
wonderful words of life;
all so freely given,
wooing us to heaven.
(*Refrain*)
3. Sweetly echo the gospel call,
wonderful words of life;
offer pardon and peace to all,
wonderful words of life;
Jesus, only Savior,
sanctify forever.
(*Refrain*)

*"Wonderful Words of Life" words are by Philip P. Bliss, 1874,
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