

MUMC At-Home Worship:

November 8, 2020

Get ready to open your bibles to the table of contents (or just turn to the second page of this worship guide) because we're starting a new worship series this week on an easy to miss book from the Old Testament: Obadiah! Tucked among the minor prophets, Obadiah is only a single chapter long but incredibly valuable in its witness to God's character and for its reminder to count all people as children of God. I'm excited to spend some time exploring this book and am glad you're joining me on the journey. Here we go! -Pastor Dillon

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

Almighty God, ruler of all creation: may our worship open us to your presence, your voice, and your guidance. In Christ's name, Amen.

Hymn: *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*, United Methodist Hymnal #110 – [watch/listen here](#)

Old Testament Reading: Obadiah 1:1-14

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Reflect:

1. The book of Obadiah begins as a judgement against the nation of Edom for looting the neighboring Israel when they were overrun by Babylon. The Edomites were descended from Esau, the brother of Jacob from whom the Israelites were descended, hence Obadiah's decry of the "the slaughter and violence done to *your brother Jacob*." Have you ever experienced the heightened challenge of conflict within a family? How does referencing this neighboring nation as a brother reframe Obadiah's outcry against Edom?
2. Edom is under judgement not just for having taken advantage of the Israelites when they were already being mistreated but for a pride that made them think they could get away with it. What might it look like today to "rise up" against groups and nations who take advantage of those who are already on the bottom? How might we confront similar expressions of pride in ourselves and society?
3. The judgment against the oppressive Edom can be a comfort for the oppressed: God sees the violence and injustice and will one day balance the scales. How might this attribute of God's character be both a comfort and a challenge to us today? How might the work of balancing the scales be a part of God's work of forgiveness and reconciliation?

Hymn: *God of Love and God of Power*, United Methodist Hymnal #578 – [watch/listen here](#)

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

Lord's Prayer

Hymn: *We Are Marching*, The Faith We Sing #2235-b – [watch/listen here](#)

Closing Prayer:

Holy God, lead us along the path of humility, teach us to count neighbors as siblings, and give us the courage to stand up for the vulnerable. In the name of Christ, our lord and savior, we pray. Amen. (*Blow out the candle*)

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
United Methodist Hymnal #110

1. A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing;
our helper he amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
doth seek to work us woe;
his craft and power are great,
and armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.
2. Did we in our own strength confide,
our striving would be losing,
were not the right man on our side,
the man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth, his name,
from age to age the same,
and he must win the battle.
3. And though this world, with devils filled,
should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed
his truth to triumph through us.
The Prince of Darkness grim,
we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure,
for lo, his doom is sure;
one little word shall fell him.
4. That word above all earthly powers,
no thanks to them, abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours,
thru him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also;
the body they may kill;
God's truth abideth still;
his kingdom is forever.

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" words are by Martin Luther, ca. 1529; translated by Frederick H. Hedge, 1853; and are in the public domain.

Obadiah 1:1-14 (CEB)

The vision of Obadiah.

The Lord God proclaims concerning Edom:
We have heard a message from the Lord—
a messenger has been sent among the nations:
"Rise up! Let us rise against her for battle!"
Look now, I will make you of little importance
among the nations;
you will be totally despised.
Your proud heart has tricked you—

you who live in the cracks of the rock,
whose dwelling is high above.
You who say in your heart,
"Who will bring me down to the ground?"
Though you soar like the eagle,
though your nest is set among the stars,
I will bring you down from there,
says the Lord.

If thieves approach you,
if robbers by night—how you've been devastated!—
wouldn't they steal only what they wanted?
If those who gather grapes came to you,
wouldn't they leave some grapes?
How Esau has been looted,
his treasures taken away!
All those who were your allies
have driven you to the border.
Those who were on your side tricked you
and triumphed over you.
They are setting your own bread as a trap under you,
but you don't see it coming.
Won't I on that day, says the Lord,
destroy the wise from Edom
and understanding from Mount Esau?
Your warriors will be shattered, Teman,
and everyone from Mount Esau will be eliminated.

Because of the slaughter and violence done to your brother Jacob,
shame will cover you,
and you will be destroyed forever.
You stood nearby,
strangers carried off his wealth,
and foreigners entered his gates
and cast lots for Jerusalem;
you too were like one of them.
But you should have taken no pleasure over your brother
on the day of his misery;
you shouldn't have rejoiced over the people of Judah
on the day of their devastation;
you shouldn't have bragged
on their day of hardship.
You shouldn't have entered the gate of my people
on the day of their defeat;
you shouldn't have even looked on his suffering
on the day of his disaster;
you shouldn't have stolen his possessions
on the day of his distress.
You shouldn't have waited on the roads
to destroy his escapees;
you shouldn't have handed over his survivors
on the day of defeat.

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

God of Love and God of Power
United Methodist Hymnal #578

1. God of love and God of power,
grant us in this burning hour
grace to ask these gifts of thee,
daring hearts and spirits free.
God of love and God of power,
thou hast called us for this hour.
2. We are not the first to be
banished by our fears from thee;
give us courage, let us hear
heaven's trumpets ringing clear.
God of love and God of power,
thou hast called us for this hour.
3. All our lives belong to thee,
thou our final loyalty;
slaves are we whene'er we share
that devotion anywhere.
God of love and God of power,
thou hast called us for this hour.
4. God of love and God of power,
make us worthy of this hour;
offering lives if it's thy will,
keeping free our spirits still.
God of love and God of power,
thou hast called us for this hour.

"God of Love and God of Power" words are by Gerald H. Kennedy, ca. 1939, and are in the public domain.

We Are Marching
The Faith We Sing #2235-b

1. We are marching in the light of God,
We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God,
We are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, we are marching,
We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching, we are marching,
We are marching in the light of God.
2. We are dancing...
3. We are singing...
4. We are praying...

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