

Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin, the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?"

So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me."

The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.

He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"



CHELTENHAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

17th Sunday after Pentecost
October 1, 2017

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PRELUDE AND CANDLE LIGHTING

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: Grain is gathered from the field; threshed and milled for flour.

PEOPLE: We are formed from the grain of God's harvest.

Leader: Flour is mixed with water to produce basic dough.

PEOPLE: The water of baptism unites us.

Leader: Yeast is added to transform the mixture.

PEOPLE: The vision of God's realm draws us onwards.

Leader: Oil softens the dough and makes a new texture.

PEOPLE: The Holy Spirit anoints us as the body of Christ.

Leader: A little salt improves the taste.

PEOPLE: Jesus calls us to be the salt of the earth.

Leader: The bread is kneaded and shaped, molded and baked.

PEOPLE: It is God who makes us a holy communion.

Leader: Grapes are harvested and crushed for juice.

PEOPLE: You are the vine, we are the branches, O Christ.

Leader: Juice and skins are mixed with yeast for fermentation.

PEOPLE: God's reign is coming. God's hope is here.

Leader: There is a time of waiting; then a time of pressing.

PEOPLE: God's new life presses forth through the sediment of our lives.

Leader: And finally, the feast is here!

PEOPLE: Let us celebrate the feast of our life in God.

Leader: You are the Prince of Peace. You are the Resurrection and the Life. You are strong to save. Our hope and trust are in You. Lord, hear this as our prayer to you.

PEOPLE: AMEN.

***HYMN:** *"This Is a Day of New Beginnings" #383 UMH*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOYS, CONCERNS AND PASTORAL PRAYER

SUNG RESPONSE: *"Kum Ba Yah" #494 vs 2*

OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY-** *"Praise God from Whom All Blessings" #95 UMH*

ANTHEM

SCRIPTURE READING- Exodus 17:1-7

***HYMN –** *"When We Are Called to Sing Your Praise" #2216 TFWS*

SERMON – *"The Blame Game"*

HOLY COMMUNION - insert

***HYMN –** *"God Will Take Care of You" #130 UMH*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE– *"Lord, I Lift Your Name on High" #2088 TFWS*

PASSING THE PEACE

Hymns can be found in the *TFWS – The Faith We Sing* and
UMH- *United Methodist Hymnal*

**Please stand as you are able.*

*If you are visiting our church service today, we want you to
know that we are glad you are here!*

*We invite everyone to join us down stairs after worship for a
time of fellowship.*